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President's Message

Here we are at Volume 12 Issue 3. Sheryl DeVore and her team of writers, editors, field notes compilers, photographers, artists and designers have once again come up with a fabulous magazine full of fascinating material about birds in our state. It never ceases to amaze me how the Meadowlark comes together issue after issue, volume after volume, year after year. It is a remarkable achievement given that the magazine is a labor of love put together on weekends and evenings.

The Meadowlark was the main reason that IOS was founded. A small group of concerned birders met over the winter of 1991/92 to build a volunteer organization capable of publishing a quality journal to celebrate birds and birding in Illinois. The vision of people like Laurie Binford, Sue Friscia, Dave Johnson, Muriel Smith and Wes Serafin, catalyzed and led by our first President Eric Walters, made Meadowlark and IOS a reality.

Our mission, however, not only includes recording Illinois bird life, but also promoting the scientific, educational and recreational aspects of ornithology. One arm of IOS, the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee, IORC, is an excellent example of the unsung dedication of a small group of our members, skilled birders all, who contribute to our mission. IORC maintains the official Illinois state check list of birds and meets several times a year all day long to carefully review written, photographic and video documentation of reported bird species. Doug Stotz, a staff ornithologist at the Field Museum in Chicago, leads IORC as the secretary. Committee members include Steve Bailey, Paul Clyne, Myrna Deaton, Dave Johnson and Dan Kassebaum.

On the recreational front, our Annual Meetings and field trips have proven extremely popular with our members. Bob Montgomery is hard at work on the next Annual Meeting for which we return to Pere Marquette on May 14-16, 2004. Mark your calendars now and be sure to join us on what will be a great weekend of renewing old acquaintances and meeting new friends. This birding hotspot never disappoints.

Our field trips this year under the capable leadership of Steve Bailey set a florid pace averaging two field trips per month. Had you attended every field trip you would have logged over 300 species in Illinois this year. Look for next year's program on our web site, www.illinoisbirds.org. It will be posted shortly.

We all have a tendency to accept IOS's achievements over these past 12 years without appreciating the dedication and hard work that goes into bringing you the high-quality *Meadowlark* and *Wings Over The Prairie* newsletter with dependable regularity, along with the wonderful Annual Meetings, field trips and other publications. As I take over as President, I want to acknowledge the dedieation of our editorial team, directors, officers, program leaders – all of them volunteers. Without them, none of this would be possible. Many thanks to each and every one of you.

Good birding.

Michael Hogg

Letter from the Editor

Another fine president

Once again, I am privileged to extend words of praise to our departing president as well as our new one. Since IOS was founded in 1992, four terrific presidents have guided this Society through difficult times and exciting times, each one of them making us stronger and more secure.

What touches me the most, however, is that each of these presidents has remained to continue to make important contributions to the organization. To this day, Eric Walters, our first president, continues to write insightful articles and take important photographs that grace the pages of this journal. Our second president, Bob Montgomery, continues to guides us through conservation issues and inspiring annual meetings.

Our most recent president, Geoff Williamson, has helped bring our Web site up to date, and now is taking on, with help from a new board member the role of producing our newsletter. Geoff will also be serving as membership secretary as well.

Our new president, just sworn in at our last board meeting, is Michael Hogg, who has served as IOS's treasurer since the group's founding. Michael is already moving ahead on old and new projects, and I'm thrilled to be working with my longtime partner in helping this Society carry out its mission.

These four presidents have supported IOS and its publications in so many ways, and continue to work behind-the-scenes to make this organization one that has become an importance presence in the Illinois birding community.

Do you know how you can extend your thanks to these four fine gentlemen? Contact them and ask them how you can help IOS. Just a short conversation with them, and you'll understand why they have all inspired me throughout my tenure as editor.

Sheryl DeVore

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About Our Cover:

Eric Secker drew the cover of a Hermit Warbler in a pine forest and found the first state record of this species. See his article beginning on page 85. Eric is a recent contributor to *Meadowlark* as an artist and an author. He has also been doing Website and graphic design work for organizations including the DuPage Birding Club and the Bird Conservation Network. An active Illinois birder, Eric has worked as a research assistant studying cowbird parasitism at the Morton Arboretum.

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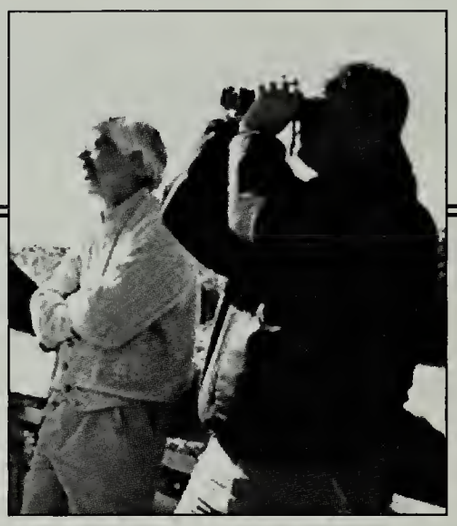
Winter bird population changes during a 36-year period in an urbanizing region

by Stanley E. Hedeen and David L. Hedeen



Stanley E. Hedeen and David L. Hedeen recorded birds on a Cook County Christmas Bird Count for 38 years, with some interesting results.

Abstract

A census party repeating a Chicago (Illinois) regional Christmas Bird Count route over a 38-year period recorded alterations in the population sizes of 14 species. The demographic changes were primarily attributed to elements of urban expansion: construction of buildings on former croplands, increase in number of backyard bird feeders, and reduction in raptor shootings. Climatic warming, human-mediated introduction of a non-native species, and adoption of permanent residency by a formerly migratory species also contributed to the growth of some populations.

Introduction

Studies in the Cincinnati, Ohio, metropolitan area (Hedeen and Hedeen 1998) and other city regions have documented that urban winter bird communities are significantly different from those in adjacent rural and natural habitats. However, in their review of the impact of urbanization on birds, Marzluff et al. (1998) found that there remains a need for long-term investigations of avifaunal changes at developing urban sites. They suggested that Christmas Bird Counts might be used to assess avian population changes in expanding metropolitan areas. Other authors, however, have expressed a variety of concerns with the quality of information collected on CBCs (Stewart 1954; Kenaga 1965; Arbib 1981). Identified problems include year-to-year inconsistencies in observer abilities, differences in party numbers and routes travelled, and variations in coverage due to weather conditions.

Detection of long-term avian demographic changes is hindered when a CBC's 24.1-km diameter census circle is moved during the count's history. An example of such a relocation occurred in 1963 when the Chicago (Illinois) CBC circle was repositioned 14.5 km north of its original location. This shift away from Chicago's center was made in response to the count participants' growing frustration with the task of finding birds in habitats being overtaken by urban sprawl.

The White-throated Sparrow is one species whose numbers increased over 38 years in the same Christmas Bird Count route in Cook County, Illinois. Mary Kay Rubey photographed this White-throated Sparrow near Starved Rock State Park, 30 January 2003.

When Stanley Hedeen participated in the newly relocated count in 1963, he perceived that continuing metropolitan growth would eventually cover much of the new CBC circle, just as it had overtaken the original CBC area. Based on his observations during the years when he participated in the original CBC, he hypothesized that significant changes in winter bird populations would occur in the new CBC area as it became more urbanized. To assess change over time, he conducted an annual bird census for the next 38 years in the southwestern portion of the relocated CBC circle.

Methods

On the day of the Chicago/Evanston/North Shore CBC from 1964 through 2001, a party of one or two observers surveyed the same 53-km census route. The census route was located between 5 and 13 km north of Chicago O'Hare International Airport. Count days ranged from 22 to 31 December. Two years (1969 and 1976) were missed.

The census route included 11 km

of trails covered by foot and 42 km of roads covered by automobile. Half of the 10-hour census day was spent in forests bordering the east and west banks of the Des Plaines River between the Illinois 68 and US 12 highway bridges. These Cook County Forest Preserve District old-growth woodlands remained unaltered through the years of the study.

The remaining half of the census day was spent among weedy fields, farm croplands, and developed lands situated west of the riparian woodlands. The weedy fields were located along drainage ditches and in power-line corridors. Mowing and removal of woody vegetation maintained the weedy fields through the duration of the study. However, the croplands that originally surrounded the weedy fields in 1964 were gone by 2001, having been gradually replaced by home subdivisions, apartment complexes, office parks, retail centers, and industrial parks.

In order to distinguish changes in bird populations through the years of the study, the counts of the 18 censuses completed during the period 1964-1983 were compared with those of the 18 censuses held during the period 1984-2001. A *t*-test was used to identify species whose average population numbers differed significantly ($P<0.05$) between the two periods.

Results and Discussion

The average number of species recorded during the census was 29.0. The total number of species identified during the study was 74. Fourteen of these species had significantly different average counts between the 1964-1983 and 1984-2001 periods (Table 1).

Urbanization likely caused most of the population changes recorded during the study. Populations of species dependent on croplands as winter feeding grounds, e.g. Ring-necked Pheasant (Johnsgard 1999), Horned Lark (Askins 2000), and Common Grackle (Peer and Bollinger 1997), declined as the farms disappeared. Unlike the croplands, the wooded areas and weedy fields remained unchanged along the census route, but residential growth occurring in their proximity likely contributed to changes in their bird populations. With increased human habitations there was a concomitant increase in bird feeders. The extra food supplied by bird-feeding may have spurred increased abundance of spe-cies that frequent feeders, e.g. Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-bellied Woodpecker, American Goldfinch, and White-throated Sparrow (Brittingham and Temple 1988; Pravosudov and Grubb 1993; Shackelford et al. 2000; Peterjohn 2001).

Winter population increases of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks also may have been related to a growth in backyard feeders, as bird feeding increases the availability of the hawks' avian prey (Duncan 1996; Peterjohn 2001). Federal restrictions on pesticide use probably contributed to their increases as well, since the populations of these two accipiters have been increasing nationally (Rosenfield and Biele-feldt 1993; Bildstein and Meyer 2000). The Red-tailed Hawk's pop-ulation growth, and possibly that of the Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, may have been at least partly due to a reduction in raptor shootings as farmlands were covered by new buildings and parking lots. Population increases of the Red-tailed Hawk in North Ameri-can urbanizing regions have been attributed to the species' growing tolerance of human activity in developed areas where it is infrequently harassed by people (Bechard et al. 1990; Stout et al. 1996).

American Crows mob a Cooper's Hawk at Montrose Harbor, Cook County. American Crow numbers have remained stable over 38 years in the same Christmas Bird Count route in Cook County, Illinios, but Cooper's Hawks numbers have dramatically increased. Photo taken 21 October 2003 by Kanae Hirabayashi.

Canada Goose populations have become established in Greater Chicago and other eastern metropolitan regions as lakes have been constructed in urban areas where there is minimal hunting (Conover and Chasko 1985). House Finch populations also have expanded in eastern North America since their release in New York about 1940 (Elliot and Arbib 1953). House Finches first appeared along the census route in 1992 and were recorded thereafter during 8 of the remaining 9 years of the study.

The Great Blue Heron was first seen along unfrozen sections of the Des Plaines River in 1992 and was again observed during 4 of the subsequent 9 years of the census. Warmer temperatures likely contributed to the increasing winter presence of the heron in the Chicago area (Carpenter and Greenberg 1999). Warming winter temper-atures during the years of this study (Dunn 2001) perhaps also allowed more individuals of other species to overwinter near the northern edge of their traditional winter ranges, e.g. White-throated Sparrow, American Goldfinch, and Sharp-shinned, Cooper's and Red-tailed Hawks.

This study joins others in demonstrating that CBC data may be used to discern long-term change in bird populations. Such patterns usually are revealed through the comparison of several years of published CBC results that are adjusted to take account of annual changes in count party numbers, duration of time spent afield and distances traveled (Raynor 1975; Bock and Root 1981). This study suggests that evidence of population changes also may be gathered when a single CBC party annually repeats its census along an established route.

Table 1. Mean count of individuals ( ) and number of censuses on which a bird was recorded (n) for species observed on five or more counts during at least one census period. A species is indicated by a plus (+) if its mean count significantly increased or a minus (-) if its mean count significantly decreased from the first to the second census period.

	1964-1983 (18 censuses)		1984-2001 (18 censuses)	
SPECIES	0	*n*	0	*n*
Great Blue Heron (+)	0.0	0	0.3	5
Canada Goose (+)	10.3	3	508.9	18
American Black Duck	3.6	13	1.9	10
Mallard	238.1	18	363.3	18
Common Goldeneye	1.2	6	0.2	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk (+)	0.0	0	0.6	9
Cooper's Hawk (+)	0.1	1	0.4	8
Red-tailed Hawk (+)	4.0	17	7.0	18
American Kestrel	4.1	17	4.8	18
Ring-necked Pheasant (-)	5.5	17	0.3	4
Mourning Dove	16.1	16	34.7	18
Belted Kingfisher	0.7	9	0.4	5
Red-bellied Woodpecker (+)	1.0	10	4.8	16
Downy Woodpecker	14.9	18	14.0	18
Hairy Woodpecker	5.2	18	6.1	18
Northern Flicker	0.8	5	0.2	3
Blue Jay	1.7	8	1.3	8
American Crow	105.9	18	143.6	18
Horned Lark (-)	12.8	6	0.0	0
Black-capped Chickadee (+)	42.1	18	56.7	18
White-breasted Nuthatch (+)	3.7	18	5.9	18
Brown Creeper	4.6	17	2.7	13
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1.5	5	0.3	2
American Robin	20.3	13	79.3	15
European Starling	696.8	18	554.1	18
Cedar Waxwing	5.9	4	5.1	8
American Tree Sparrow	71.6	18	30.9	17
Song Sparrow	9.3	18	6.4	17
Swamp Sparrow	0.5	9	0.9	4
White-throated Sparrow (+)	0.2	1	3.3	9
Dark-eyed Junco	111.9	18	96.4	18
Northern Cardinal	36.3	18	42.6	18
Common Grackle (-)	10.2	6	0.1	1
House Finch (+)	0.0	0	10.2	9
American Goldfinch (+)	22.9	18	59.3	18
House Sparrow	76.0	18	93.2	18

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Illinois' first Hermit Warbler

by Eric Secker

I headed to the Morton Arboretum 8 December 2002 in search of a rare bird. What I found was much rarer, however, than the bird for which I was looking.

It was a Sunday at about 1 p.m. and I went out with my dad to search for a bird I had heard the day before. Taking advantage of the warmer than average weather, we covered all the evergreens around Frost Hill at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, DuPage County, on Saturday morning, 7 December. On the way back to the car, I heard a trilling call coming from up in the trees that sounded similar to a Cedar Waxwing. I returned Sunday hoping to locate the bird, which in all likelihood was a Bohemian Waxwing. I scanned all the evergreens once again. I didn't hear anything in the trees until I came upon a flock of Black-capped Chickadees that I had seen the day before. I began looking through the chickadees again. Then I approached a yew bush where a number of chickadees were congregating. I began pishing, in hopes of drawing out something good such as a Common Redpoll.

Immediately, a small gray bird with a bright yellow head popped out in the open less than six feet away. It perched in the bush briefly then flew up into a pine tree. I knew that I had just seen something good, but I was not certain what it was. A non-breeding plumaged American Goldfinch is the only bird with a yellow head that is seen regularly in northeastern Illinois during the winter months. I began thinking of other birds with these field marks. Pine Warbler came

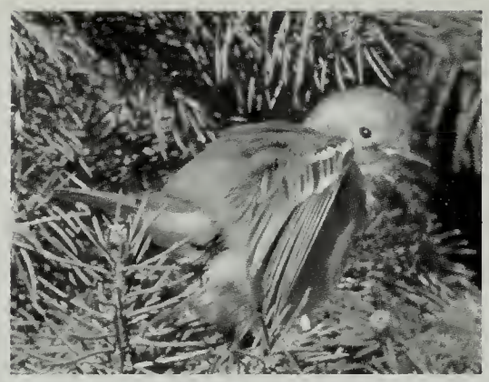
Hermit Warbler at Morton Arboretum, DuPage County. First state record. Photo taken in the winter 2002/2003 season by Jeff McCoy.

to mind as a bird that might be seen in December, and Verdin came to mind as a bird with a gray body and yellow head. I continued chasing the bird around the pine trees getting additional views. Finally, the bird stationed itself in a tall spruce tree. It spent considerable time in this tree, deep within the center. I ended up grabbing on to the trunk of the tree and staring straight up just to get a glimpse of the bird gleaning high in the top portion of the spruce. Although these views were the worst I obtained of the overall bird, I was able to get excellent looks at the tail pattern. I quickly took notes on the bird and sketched the tail pattern when I returned to the car. After consulting the field guides I ruled out Verdin, then Pine Warbler, and eventually came to Hermit Warbler (*Dendroica occidentalis*). That was the bird!

Excited, I quickly posted my find on IBET, the on-line list ser-vice for Illinois birders, full well-knowing that interrogating replies would soon follow. Arriving home after school on 9 December, I was relieved to get a message on the answering machine from Bob Fisher confirming the sighting. Numerous other posts soon followed as others were able to relocate the bird.

As its name suggests, the Hermit Warbler is not easy to see. Even trips to its normal breeding grounds along the west coast are often unsuccessful in producing a sighting of the "shy" species that lives in the crowns of coniferous trees, dropping down only occasionally (Harrison 1984). Despite being seen by numerous Illinois birders, the Hermit Warbler was often a challenge to find, and many birders had to make numerous attempts before seeing the bird. Nonetheless, the Hermit Warbler continued to be seen at the Morton Arboretum well into January. The last report came sometime around 7 January, and a long cold spell in mid-January led many to believe that the bird may have died from the cold and a lack of food.

The bird was seen associating



Hermit Warbler at Morton Arboretum, DuPage County. First state record. Photo taken in the winter 2002/2003 season by Jeff McCoy.

with the Black-capped Chickadees on many occasions. It also regularly ventured off on its own. The Hermit Warbler fed on a number of insects and bugs that were still present during winter. It often plucked bugs out of pine cones and from crevasses in the bark. Most of the time the bird was seen deep in the evergreen trees, but it also briefly came out and fed in the open. The bird became increasingly difficult to see as the winter progressed. This combined with a slow decrease in the number of birders looking for the warbler, may have led to the drop in reports. This hypothesis was supported when a Morton Arboretum class led by Denis Kania, reported getting brief looks at the Hermit Warbler 2 February 2003. If the bird was still present that day, it may have survived the winter, which became less severe in later months, but its fate remains unknown.

Many birders wondered how long the Hermit Warbler was present at the Morton Arboretum. Most, including myself, believe the Hermit Warbler was present at the Arboretum for a considerable amount of time prior to the initial 8 December sighting. It may have arrived during late fall migration. One thing was clear. This bird was far off course from its normal breeding range, which primarily encompasses California, western Oregon, and western Washington. It is even farther away from its typical wintering grounds in Mexico and Central America. However, wintering birds are also regularly seen along the California coast and rarely into portions of Oregon (Dunn and Garret 1997). It is unclear why this bird was driven so far off course, but it is clearly evident why it ended up at the Morton Arboretum. The area where the bird was seen, west of Frost Hill, is almost entirely comprised of coniferous trees including many pine and spruce trees as well as some hemlocks, junipers, and other dwarf evergreen shrubs. Hermit Warblers are also often attracted to the call of a Northern Saw-whet Owl (Griscom and Sprunt 1957). Coincidently or not, a saw-whet owl roosts regularly in a pine tree adjacent to the area where the Hermit Warbler was usually seen at the Morton Arboretum.

The bird's origin was questioned further when it was learned that a second Hermit Warbler was seen in New York a week earlier. The New York bird was present near Jones Beach State Park in Nassau County, New York from 28 November through 1 December 2003. Some birders wondered whether the Hermit Warblers seen in New York and Illinois were in fact the same bird. Comparison of the Morton Arboretum bird with photos of the one in New York proved that they were two different birds. The New York bird had notable black markings on the throat and breast as well as a bit of streaking on the sides. It also had a faint yellow wash on the breast and had a greener head and back. All of these features led many to debate whether or not the New York Hermit Warbler was a Hermit/Townsend's hybrid (Eckert 2001).

Age and sex

Another question arose regarding the bird's age and sex. Advice obtained from Sievert Rohwer, Curator of Birds at the University of Washington's Burke Museum, appears to clear up the issue regarding age, but not gender. Rohwer has co-written multiple articles about hybridization between Hermit Warblers and Townsend's Warblers

and plumage characteristics and molt schedules of these two very similar species. After viewing and studying the excellent photos taken by Jeff McCoy, Rohwer said, "The bird seems clearly to be less than a year old, as it shows the heavy shaft streaks on the secondary coverts characteristic of young birds. These feathers are retained through the first breeding season, and are an important aging character throughout the first potential breeding season." Rohwer could not come to a conclusion about the gender of the bird, but guessed that it was likely a first-year male due to the brightness of the head.

A number of other vagrant Hermit Warblers have been recorded in the Midwest and East. One or two reports exist for Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. Nine reports have also come from four locations in eastern Canada (Dunn and Garret 1997). Previous to this record, the Hermit Warbler has been reported twice in Illinois, but documentation has never been accepted by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (IORC). A bird at Springfield and one at Chicago (see Bohlen 1989) were not accepted due to the possibility of these birds being Townsend's/Hermit hybrids.

Ruling out a Townsend's X Hermit Hybird

The breeding ranges of the Townsend's Warbler and Hermit Warbler overlap in portions of Oregon and Washington, but even in areas of overlap the two species breed in separate habitats, specifically different elevations. Nonetheless, hybridization between Hermit Warblers and Townsend's Warblers has been well documented for years (Dunn and Garret 1997)

A Hermit/Townsend's Warbler hybrid has been documented in Illinois. See a sketch of the breeding plumaged male that was found at Van Patten Woods Forest Preserve, Lake County, 4 May 1995, discovered on the spring bird count (Johnson et al. 1998). Jon Dunn, co-author of "A Field Guide to Warblers of North America," concurred with the identification of this 1995 record as a hybrid. This was possibly only the second record for eastern North America for this hybrid, with the other being found in Newfoundland (MacTavish 1996).

Separating Hermit Warblers from Hermit/Townsend's hybrid can be difficult at times and relies on a number of key field marks that include the extent and location of streaking on the flanks, the amount and intensity of yellow wash below the black bib on the breast, the amount of gray coloring present in the back, and the amount of yellow on the crown. Dark patches on the crown are also often present in many of these hybrids (Jackson et al. 1992).

The Hermit Warbler that was present in New York (November and December 2003) has been subject to much continuing controversy. The general consensus among Sievert Rohwer and many New York birders was that the New York bird had at least some Townsend's Warbler ancestry. These conclusions were based mainly on the field marks mentioned above that set the New York bird apart from the one in Illinois. Based on these and other criteria, the Hermit Warbler at the Morton Arboretum was ruled as being a "pure-blood" Hermit Warbler, thus becoming a first state record for Illinois.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank all of those people who sent in documentation on the Hermit Warbler. Your efforts helped make the Hermit Warbler one of the most well-documented birds in Illinois. I'd also like to specifically thank Jerry Kumery and Jeff McCoy for their successful efforts in photographing the bird. Special thanks go to Bob and Karen Fisher, Brian Herriott, Dan Scheiman, and about a dozen other unnamed birders for quickly relocating the bird the next day and confirming its identification. A special thanks also to Sievert Rohwer for his comments and help in aging the bird.

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Sooty Tern:
First Illinois Record

by Frank Bennett

Most years Mother Nature hits some of our coastal states with a hurricane or two, which in turn pushes rain and strong winds well into the inland states. Fellow birders have taught me over the years that displaced coastal bird species sometimes come with the rain and wind. Several birders I know from Illinois, Kentucky and Tennessee head out birding when the hurricane winds start blowing.

During the beginning of October 2002, a weather front starting in the Caribbean, packing strong winds from Hurricane Lili, hit the Gulf Coast state of Louisiana moving inland in a northeastwardly direction. This front carried strong steady winds and rain to southern Illinois for multiple days. On the second day of strong winds, 3 October 2002, I started watching for any displaced bird species. On 4 October, while at work, I observed three or four birds utilizing the Ohio River along the Kentucky shoreline at approximately 1:30 p.m. Identification at this range was impossible without bi-noculars, but they appeared to be gull-sized. After work, at 3:30 p.m., I started scanning the river from the parking lot of the power plant where I work, hoping to relocate the birds and identify them. There were no birds over the river, which was basically laden with white caps from one side to the other. The wind had been blowing steadily at 25-30 mph all day long; occasionally, there were even stronger gusts.

I left the plant and headed to the next closest Ohio River access point, the Township of Joppa's boat ramp. As I pulled closer to the river and boat ramp, at approximately 50 to 60 feet away, I noticed a fairly large bird sitting within 10 feet of the river's edge. This bird was facing into the wind as gulls and terns do during strong gusts, so I could only see the back of the bird, making identification uncertain, but I did see its black back. My first thought was a Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*), remembering Myrna Dea-ton's bird from a few years back (Deaton 1999). But this bird had black legs (a skimmer has reddish-orange legs) and the overall appearance was tern-like. The bird must have sensed my presence because it turned around to face me briefly before taking off out over the river. It revealed the classic black-and-white plumage of an adult Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*).

When it took flight and headed into the wind, I could see how strong yet graceful it was. The upperparts were blackish; the underparts were white; the legs were black; and it had a black tail above with long, white outer tail feathers. Within a few seconds it swung upstream with the wind and headed toward Metropolis. With the limited number of access points between here and Metropolis I decided to head straight to Ft. Massac State Park in Metropolis. The boat ramp at the park allows a great view of the river in both directions. I left town and headed to Mermet Lake just in case the tern had changed its course of direction, and was looking for some water that was out of the wind. No Sooty Tern or any other tern was observed at Mermet Lake that afternoon. I searched Saturday and Sunday but never relocated the Sooty Tern.

Not until I checked Bohlen (1989) and Robinson (1996) did I realize the importance of the sighting. The Sooty Tern was a first state record for Illinois (also see the IORC Report in the last issueof Meadowlark, Vol 12, No 2).

That evening after placing the Sooty Tern post on the Illinois birders list serve, I started reading email from the day and got to one very interesting post on neighboring Kentucky's list serve. A friend and Kentucky birder, Dave Roemer, had posted seeing and videotaping two Sooty Terns on Kentucky Lake about an hour earlier than my Illinois/Kentucky border sighting. A third Sooty Tern was seen later that afternoon on Kentucky Lake in a different area, about 30 to 40 miles away. Roemer's sighting and my sighting were both accepted by the Kentucky records committee (Brinkley and Lehman 2003) and are now in the new up-dated "Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky" by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. The Illinois Ornithological Records Committee has accepted the Illinois sighting as the state's first record of Sooty Tern (Stotz and Johnson 2003).

The Sooty Tern is widespread throughout the tropical oceans, where its range overlaps with both Bridled and Gray-backed Terns. It is "one of the most abundant nesting birds of tropical oceans ... (with a) colony on Dry Tortugas, (Florida), estimated by National Park Service at 100,000 birds. Separation is dif-

ficult at long range but straightforward when birds are perched and at close range. Sexes are alike and there is no marked seasonal variation. Juveniles and first summer types can be separated from adults. Seven subspecies are listed, none of which are separable at sea (Harrison 1985).

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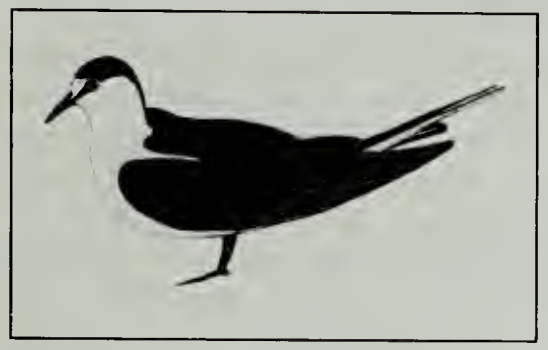

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A Christmas Bird Count marathon: part 1

by Kelly J. McKay

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC), sponsored by the National Audubon Society (NAS), provides some of the few truly long-term data used to document avian population trends. Additionally, with the large number of counts conducted across North America each year, the CBC Program also provides avian population data from a large geographic area. This combination of long-term and large-scale data makes the CBC Program an important source of information for the scientific monitoring of avian populations (Arbib 1981; Bock and Root 1981; Drennan 1981; Root 1988; Bibby et al. 1992). Participation in this program is certainly one of the best ways for citizens to contribute to scientific research, and thereby help monitor the health of our avian communities.

I have been participating on CBCs for over two decades. For many years, I have taken my passion and enthusiasm for CBCs to an extreme, by doing eight-to-eleven counts per year and serving as the compiler for seven of these since 1997. During the fall of 2002, I decided to take my CBC participation to the next level – the challenge of doing a "CBC marathon." As I discussed my goal of doing 23 CBCs in a single season (one every day during the count period), with fellow birders and biologists, I was met with the same reoccurring responses: Are you insane? It can't be done. It's logistically and physically impossible.

The most number of CBCs ever done was 16!

Next, I told them that I not only wanted to do 23 counts, but I was also going to compile my usual seven counts. Regardless of references to my sanity or lack thereof, I remained undaunted. It also helped that Chan Robbins and Paul Sykes (two of the most prolific Christmas counters ever) encouraged my endeavor at the North American Ornithological Conference in late September. The decision was made – I would attempt to do 23 CBCs in a single count season!

For the next few months, I sent e-mails and called many count compilers throughout Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, and Wisconsin trying to schedule a CBC for each day. I limited myself to these Midwestern states because of the driving distances involved. Unfortunately, I was only able to schedule 20 CBCs because of logistics (18 NAS counts and 2 state-only counts). The only days I had no CBC scheduled during the count period were 24 and 30 December 2002 and 2 January 2003.

December 14. The 2002-2003 CBC count period began, and I must admit my sleep was restless, anticipating the odyssey I would soon undertake. At 4 a.m., with heavy fog rolling in, I drove 1.5 hours to the Cedar Rapids, Iowa count. During the morning, I counted alone in heavy fog. My territory included upland and floodplain woodlots, a large stretch of the Cedar River, and extensive agricultural land. Unfort-unately, this particular count circle continues to lose considerable amounts of habitat to development and the urban sprawl of Cedar Rapids. The morning fog made the birding difficult. The only noteworthy birds were several Hooded Mergansers, Killdeer, and Belted Kingfishers on the river, along with a small flock of Rusty Blackbirds out in ag country.

By early afternoon, the fog cleared and it was sunny and warm with little wind. I joined Weir Nelson's field party for the afternoon. We

worked two tree nurseries and Cedar Lake and found Great Blue Heron, Pied-billed Grebe, Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, American Black Duck, Northern Pintail, American Coot, Long-eared Owl, and Fox Sparrow. Great finds! My group recorded 53 species (See Table 1 for CBC results from all my field parties on the various counts).

But by far, the "best" bird of the day was a Gray Catbird (my first ever on a CBC). This unusual wintering species arrived at Weir's property in late fall, and remained. The bird seemed to be in excellent shape and fed regularly on the ample amounts of grape jelly that Weir happily provided.

December 15 - At 4:30 a.m., I was on my way to meet Steve Hager and Brad Cosentino for the Dav-enport, Iowa-Illinois CBC, for which I am the compiler. It was a perfect day – warm temperatures and little or no wind. Our territory included most of the Illinois side of the Quad Cities metropolitan area. The habitat included small fragmented woodlots, a few wetland areas, some agricultural fields, residential and urban areas, and a large stretch of the Mississippi River. As with the previous count, much of the woodland and wetland habitat within this circle has been and continues to be lost to development. Even agricultural fields are disappearing in the wake of urban sprawl.

My group identified 60 species. Noteworthy passerines included a Winter Wren and Fox Sparrow, along with 20 White-throated Sparrows. Waterfowl and other waterbirds were the highlight of this count. We had Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Trumpeter Swan, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Killdeer, and even, Thayer's Gull.

But the bird of the day was discovered while I was walking along a weedy, overgrown creek bottom. There, I heard the distinctive scold note of a House Wren. Investigating a little closer, I "spished" a couple of times and the House Wren hopped up on a fence post and broke out into a full song, a sound so familiar during the summer. The House Wren was another CBC first for me.

December 16 - I departed at 4:30 a.m. for a 1.25-hour drive to meet Ulf

Kelly McKay got his first Christmas Bird Count Gray Catbird during his 2002/2003 CBC marathon. Photo by Kanae Hirabayashi 13 October 2003, Montrose Harbor, Cook County.

Konig for the Green Island, Iowa-Illinois CBC. The weather had changed substantially. It was much colder, and a stiff wind was blowing. Our key site, the Green Island State Wildlife Area, an extensive wetland complex, was nearly 100% frozen and we hardly saw any waterfowl save for the 24 American Black Ducks, a single Wood Duck, and a single Green-winged Teal. Located at the southern end of the non-glaciated "driftless area," this CBC contains a considerable amount of floodplain and upland forest as well as extensive wetlands and some good grassland habitat. The steep bluffs were heavily forested with cedar stands. By the end of the day, with a chill in my bones, we had tallied a respectable 51 species including 2 Northern Harriers, 1 Winter Wren, 24 Eastern Bluebirds, and 160 Cedar Waxwings.

During the drive home, I began to feel very tired, and a bit uneasy about completing my challenge. And I had only done three CBCs at this point.

December 17 - Brent Langley and I departed for the Lost Nation, Iowa count at 3:45 a.m. on a cold, damp, and very breezy day. Data are not submitted to the National Audubon Society for this state-only count. The habitat we covered in this rural area included mostly agricultural land, with numerous smaller woodlots, several wetland areas, and a couple of large pine plantations. We had very limited access to the floodplain of the Wapsipinicon River.

Although we were dressed in multiple layers of winter clothes, 13 hours of exposure to the bone-numbing wind chills made for a difficult CBC. We were only able to identify 47 species, the most notable including 1 Winter Wren, 8 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 6 White-throated, 2 White-crowned, 1 Field, and 3 Fox Sparrows.

December 18 - Brent Langley and I left for the Clinton-Savanna, Iowa-Illinois CBC, for which I am the compiler, at 4 a.m. and met Ryan Schmitz at 5 a.m. The day was warm and breezy, in the 50s and 60s. The weather plus the fact that my territory possesses exceptional-ly diverse habitat helped give me the strength to continue. My portion of the circle remains relatively undeveloped and is at the extreme southern end of the driftless area where habitat varies from fairly extensive forest and wetland, along with large areas of agricultural land and grassland as well as a stretch of the Mississippi River floodplain.

Alas, the winds began blowing 20 to 30 mph and we had periodic torrential downpours amid severe thunderstorms. We spent the entire day soaked and chilled. Believe it or not, although conditions were miserable the entire day, the thought of canceling or postponing the count never entered my mind. I actually thrive on the challenge presented by less than optimal conditions.

Amazingly, given the conditions, we still recorded a "decent" number of species (53), including Tundra Swan, Northern Shoveler, Redhead, Red-breasted Merganser, and Thayer's Gull. Addi-tionally, we recorded 112 Bald Eagles, 15 Brown Creepers, 9 Golden-crowned Kinglets, and 60

American Robins.

The "best" bird of the day, however, was another CBC first for me. While driving across one of the wide agricultural fields, I observed a small bird fly across the road. Thinking it did not look right for a Horned Lark, I walked back and found an American Pipit near the edge of the field, once again proving it pays to check birds closely.

Flocks of Snow Geese are a common sight on the Horseshoe Lake and Union County Christmas Bird Counts. Lucky southern Illinois CBCers even find one or two Ross's Geese in with the flock. This photo taken recently in Texas by Steven D. Bailey looks just like something yon would see in Union County, Illinois.

At home by 7 p.m., and thankful that it gets dark early in the winter, I took a hot shower. Despite physical exhaustion, though, I had to pack for the next three days, which would be spent in southern and central Illinois. And I wasn't going to sleep that night. At 10:30 p.m., I began the seven-hour drive to southern Illinois and the next CBC, which would begin at 6 a.m.

December 19 - After driving all night to get to the Horseshoe Lake, Illinois-Missouri CBC, I was beginning to find it very difficult to stay awake. Adding to the adversity of the situation, was the fact that I drove through periodic bouts of heavy rain. Weather forecasts called for more of the same all day. Pepsi and Vivarin, or as I like to call it "nectar and food of the gods" powered me through that long night and the day's count. I arrived at the meeting location for this count at 5:30 a.m. and joined Vern Kleen at 6 a.m., to begin the Horseshoe Lake CBC.

Deja vu!

Another day with periodic heavy rains. I was soaking wet and chilled to the bone as the wind whipped through my drenched clothing. Given the horrible conditions, I could not believe my field party actually had 66 species. Some of the more interesting birds found in bottomland forest, agrieultural fields, and wetlands included 300 Snow Geese, 7 Northern Harriers, 51 Red-headed Woodpeckers, 15 Carolina Wrens, 2 Yellow-rumped Warblers, 236 White-throated, 33 Field, and 17 Fox Sparrows, 18 Eastern Meadow-larks, and 75 Rusty Blackbirds. Nothing like a good southern Illinois CBC, with more species such as Carolina Chickadee, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Towhee, and Vesper Sparrow (one of the best birds this count), to cure the northern Illinois CBC blues!

Considerably more species are possible on CBCs in southern Illinois, since many birds that migrate out of the northern Midwest actually winter in the southern reaches of Illinois. For example, many of the species listed above are unusual or rare in northern Illinois, but are relatively common wintering species in the southern portions of the state.

December 20 - After a mere 5.5 hours of sleep, my first sleep in 45 hours, I joined Vern and Jim Funk to begin the Union County, Illinois CBC. The weather was clear, and it was considerably colder, but that just served to rejuvenate me as I continued the marathon. Our territory was the Union County Conservation Area, a rich matrix of bottomland woods, hedgerows, fields, and various wetlands. Our group recorded an outstanding total of 77 species! A good divers-ity of waterfowl char-acterized this CBC (18 species). Some noteworthy birds included 221 Snow Geese, 1,000 Greater White-fronted Geese, 2 Ross's Geese, and 802 Ring-necked Ducks. Other interesting finds included 6 Red-shouldered Hawks, 81 Red-headed Wood-peckers, 16 Carolina Wrens, 3 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 384 White-throated, 41 White-crowned, 1 Lincoln's, 3 Field, and 4 Savannah Sparrows, as well as 90 Eastern Meadowlarks.

It would have been nice to go to bed after this CBC, but instead I had to drive five hours to central Illinois, which was where my next CBC was scheduled. I had a plan. I would drive four hours to Havana, get a hotel room and sleep for two or three hours, and then drive another hour to Richard Bjorklund's house, the meeting location for the Lake Chautauqua CBC. I arrived in Havana at 2 a.m., only to find the one hotel in town closed. So, like many a birder has done, I pulled into a rest area to sleep for a couple of hours. I awoke at 4:30 a.m., freezing cold, and decided to continue driving towards the next count. My only other option was to bail out and forfeit the marathon and that was unthinkable!

December 21 - I arrived at the Lake Chautauqua, Illinois CBC at 6 a.m. and was assigned to Dan and Angella Moorehouse's field party. My exhaustion was made that much worse by cold weather. Nevertheless, after a hearty breakfast courtesy of Richard Bjorklund (birders always get rejuvenated by food), I remained enthusiastic about the count, especially knowing about the rich habitat, consisting of upland and bottomland forest, large pine plantings, agricultural fields, and wetlands – including the Lake Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge, found within our territory. Although it was cold and windy, the recent weather had been mild enough that the Lake Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge was largely open and that made for some great waterfowl

birding. Our field party had a good day, identifying 61 species including an impressive diversity of waterfowl including 7 Double-crested Cormorants, 21 Great Blue Herons, 57 American Black Ducks, 246 Gadwalls, and 50 Ruddy Ducks. We also had 8 Killdeer, 2 Hermit Thrush, 2 Northern Mockingbirds, and 79 Eurasian Tree Sparrows.

We finished the group compilation at 7 p.m. and even though I was thoroughly exhausted, I still had a 2.5 hour drive to get home. While fighting to stay awake during this drive, I was also beginning to question my sanity for attempting this odyssey. Thank heaven for Pepsi and Vivarin! I finally got to bed around 11 p.m. It had been 42 hours since I had last slept in a bed.

December 22 - After 4.5 hours sleep, I felt re-energized both mentally and physically to take on the Muscatine, Iowa-Illinois CBC, another count I compile. At 4:30 a.m. I was on my way to meet Steve Freed, with whom I birded fairly large upland and bottomland woodlots, extensive agricultural land, and a substantial stretch of the Mississippi River. Unfortunately, this circle also continues to lose habitat to development.

Throughout the day, we were exposed to a 20-30 mph wind, which caused a severe wind chill factor. Although we were dressed in multiple layers, it was still very painful while working the river and being exposed to the full force of the wind. Waterfowl and gull numbers were much lower than normal. As a result, my group had a fairly poor day with only 46 species identified. The highlights of the count were 9 Great Blue Herons, 61 Bald Eagles, 1 Northern Goshawk, 1 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 6 Yellow-rumped Warblers, and 30 Eurasian Tree Sparrows. Although this CBC produced the fewest number of species so far, my enthusiasm for the marathon remained high. And besides, I was going to get six full hours of sleep that night, the most sleep I had since December 15.

December 23 - At 4:30 a.m., I

Eurasian Tree-Sparrows are practically a "gimme" on the Lake Chautauqua Christmas Bird Count, and Kelly McKay was there to see them during his 2002/2003 CBC marathon. Peter Weber took this photo on 10 October 2003 in Rochester (Sangamon County).

embarked on my tenth consecutive count and the fourth one I compiled, the Princeton-Camanche, Iowa-Illinois CBC. My territory includes small scattered woodlots. For the eighth day in a row, the wind was substantial. I had my poorest CBC to date – only 44 species. The most noteworthy species was a Red-breasted Merganser! Tomorrow was an off-day and I planned on sleeping in. At this point, I began to wonder if the folks who questioned my sanity at the outset of this adventure may have been right.

December 25 – I felt very refreshed, following a day off, and was ready to begin the second half of this 2002-2003 CBC marathon. At 3:15 a.m. with a three-hour drive ahead of me, I set off to the Chicago Lakefront, Illinois CBC, to join Joel Greenberg's field party. While driving toward Chicago, early on this Christmas morning, I couldn't help but thinking, "I really need to get a life!" A fairly strong wind was blowing and with Chicago an hour east away, I started encountering heavy snow squalls. These periodic snows continued through the early morning hours of the count.

The weather today was – Chicago! Gusty winds blowing off Lake Michigan. The habitat was – Chicago! Lakeshore Drive. Cars. Buildings. Sorry Chicago, but this CBC resulted in the fewest number of species recorded by one of my field parties in the last 20 years of CBCs (31). In fact, this was the first CBC in more than 15 years in which my field party failed to identify at least 40 species.

Nevertheless, this was where I got my life bird when I was desperately birding in Jackson Park near the end of the day, trying to get to 40 species. I heard a raucous call and looked up to see a small group of Monk Parakeets flying in to the enormous communal stick nest located in the light structure at a ball field. I couldn't help telling myself "that this made the whole day worth it."

Did Kelly make it through all 20? Find out in the next issue of *Meadowlark, Volume 12, No. 4*, when we feature Part 2. We'll also publish two tables and literature cited that

Kelly McKay got his only "lifer" bird during his CBC marathon in Chicago when he saw a flock of Monk Parakeets. This photo of Monk Parakeets was taken in Chicago last winter by Eric Walters.

correspond with this piece.

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The 2002/2003 Illinois Christmas Bird Count

by David B. Johnson

As fickle as the weather is in early winter, compilers try to hold their count early in the CBC period (14 Dec. to 5 Jan) to bolster increased species counts. They hope to count late lingering birds when water is still open and berries and seeds are still available. But cold weather and some snow came almost three weeks before the 2002/2003 count period. As a result, many northern and central counts already had frozen lakes during the counts, and waterbird numbers and other species numbers were down. Compilers who held their counts early clearly had no distinct advantage.

Ironically, perhaps due to the weather mildness during the actual CBC period, there were some great surprises and good tallies of several species. Most noteworthy and mentioned by many compilers and observers were high counts of Great Blue Heron, Gadwall, Bufflehead, Hooded and Red-breasted Mergansers, Ruddy Duck, Cooper's Hawk, Wild Turkey, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, Carolina and Winter Wrens, Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, White-throated Sparrow, and Northern Cardinal. To a lesser degree there were noteworthy small numerical spikes in other species including Lesser Black-backed Gull, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Northern Mockingbird and Le Conte's, Fox, Harris's and White-crowned Sparrows. Low numbers were often mentioned for American Coot, Killdeer, Ring-necked Pheasant, Loggerhead Shrike, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Purple Fineh. Winter finches were almost non-existent.

Results

Results from 62 counts included 164 species and one unrecognized form. Two counts surpassed the magic 100 species mark — Rend Lake (102) and Cypress Creek (105, a record high for that circle). Fermilab-Batavia had the highest number of field observers at 96. Lisle Arboretum fielded an impressive 63 observers while Rushville could only muster up 5 field observers. Waukegan had an im-pressive number of feeder observers —78—and the combined effort of 25 field observers put Waukegan in the century club of 103 participants.

High counts

Thirteen (13) all-time state high counts were set or tied for an individual species total recorded within a count circle. Rend Lake tallied 56,915 Snow Geese. Carlyle Lake recorded 53 Eurasian Collared-Doves and 28,546 Ring-billed Gulls. Cypress Creek tallied a record 39 Barred Owls, 61 Winter Wrens, 241 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 1,447 Song Sparrows, and 985 Swamp Sparrows. Union tied a record 2 Barn Swallows and tallied a record 479 Tufted Titmouse. Fermilab-Batavia tied their last year's high of 18 Cooper's Hawks. Calumet City-Sand Ridge tallied a record 8 Thayer's and 6 Lesser Black-backed Gulls. The top ten total numbers of individuals (in order of abundance) were: Common Grackle (1,188,607), Mallard (274,312), Red-winged Blackbird (252,594), European Starling (240,398), Canada Goose (167,700), Snow Goose (124,134), American Crow (113,088), Ring-billed Gull (67,707), House Sparrow (43,028), and Brown-headed Cow-bird (26,510). While not quite as abundant, there were other good "high counts" mentioned by com-pilers and observers. Great Blue Herons (1,433 in 55 circles) were almost everywhere. Gadwall (6,645 in 36 circles), Bufflehead (492 in 30 circles), Hooded Merganser (1,282 in 37 circles), Red-breasted Mer-gansers (1,022 in 17 circles), and Ruddy Duck (624 in 15 circles) were waterfowl noted as in "good numbers." Cooper's Hawk (216 in 56 circles) confirms the widespread status of that species. Wild Turkeys (1,668 in 41 circles) are now an introduction success. Belted Kingfisher (438 in 59 circles) were noted by almost all count circles. Red-bellied Wood-peckers (4181 in 61 circles, missed only by Chicago Lakefront) have become a dominant woodpecker. Brown Creeper (1,128 in 58 circles), Carolina (1,476 in 52 circles) and Winter Wrens (253 in 43 circles), Golden-crowned (1,553 in 55 circles) and Ruby-crowned Kinglets (74 in 20 circles), Eastern Bluebird (1,801 in 47 circles), Hermit Thrush (103 in 33 circles), White-throated Sparrow (6,706 in 53 circles), and Northern Cardinal (16,707 in 62 circles)—were all species in good to increasing numbers for many count circles. Lesser Black-backed Gull (14 in 9 circles), is becoming an increasingly common winter visitor. Eurasian Collared-Doves (102 in 6 circles) are on the move (look on your next CBC around small town grain elevators). Northern Mock-ingbird (410 in 28 circles) seems to be expanding northward a bit. Fox (185 in 36 circles), and White-crowned Sparrows (1,502 in 47 circles) were more widespread. Dark-eyed Juncos were widespread (30,360 in 62 circles) plus 3 "Oregon" types were noted. The next most widespread sparrow was the American Tree Sparrow (14,585 in 61 circles).

Rarities and unusual birds

Lisle Arboretum's Hermit Warbler was in a class all its own as an ultra vagrant, present for some time and discovered there by Eric Secker 8 Dec 2002. See Seckers' article in this issue on the discovery of a new state species. Kudos to the parties that relocated this bird on count day. Collinsville's Great-tailed Grackle was also a CBC first and an extremely rare wintering record. Other unusual lingering birds or rarities included a Pacific Loon at Rend Lake. Pere Marquette (1) and Peoria (1) noted the only Great Egrets. Twenty-seven Ross's Geese (in eight circles) were noteworthy (though, perhaps, less unusual than in the past). All three scoter species were recorded: 1 Surf at Newton, 1 White-winged at Mermet Lake and 3 at Waukegan, and 3 Blacks at Rend Lake. Evanston tallied the only Long-tailed Ducks—22. Van Petten (1) and Muscatine (1) tallied the only Northern Goshawks. Carlyle Lake tallied the only Golden Eagle. Chicago Urban's pair of Merlins in a cemetery was note-worthy; another Merlin was at Rockford. Eleven Peregrine Falcons were in 6 circles. As usual, Newton had the only Greater Prairie-Chickens (22). The only Virginia Rail was noted at Cypress Creek. Thirty-four (34) Sandhill Cranes (in three circles) were noted; the singleton at Carlyle Lake was noteworthy. Two (2) Greater Yellowlegs and 10 Least Sandpipers were at Pere Marquette; another Greater Yellow-legs was noted at Cypress Creek, and 1 Least Sandpiper was at Horseshoe Lake. The only Dunlin was at Carlyle Lake. Three (3) American Woodcocks were noted at Crab Orchard NWR (1), Cypress Creek (1) and Mermet Lake (1). The Glaucous Gull at Carlyle Lake was noteworthy, and Calumet City-Sandridge recorded four. Four (4) Great Black-backed Gulls were recorded at Calumet City-Sandridge (3) and Waukegan (1). The rarest gull was the immature Black-legged Kittiwake recorded at Carlyle Lake. A Barn Owl was noteworthy at Rockford, and another was

Pine Warbler, Washington Park, Springfield, 19 December 2002, Sangamon County. Photo by H. David Bohlen.

at Cypress Creek at a known location. Van Petten, Chicago Urban and Middle Fork tallied the only Northern Saw-whet Owls. Pileated Woodpeckers seem to be moving up the Illinois and Rock River valleys with 4 at Starved Rock and 6 at Rockford both high counts for their circles; normally this is a rare woodpecker in northern Illinois outside of the Mississippi River Valley. Ten (10) Eastern Phoebes were tallied in eight circles. Barrington, Chicago Urban and Lisle Arboretum had the northernmost birds. Loggerhead Shrikes were down slightly with 46 being tallied (in 15 circles). Only 12 Northern Shrikes were noted (in 9 circles). Imagine finding Barn Swallows (2) on a CBC! Union County, again, tied an all-time high, and the observers dutifully documented the find with excellent details! Only 40 Red-breasted Nuthatches were tallied (in 21 circles). Pere Marquette recorded 2 House Wrens; another was at Davenport; yet, another at Union County. Five (5) Marsh Wrens were tallied with the northernmost birds being at Bushnell and Lisle Arboretum. Four (4) Gray Catbirds were reported at Baldwin Lake (1), Joliet (1), Kishwaukee (1), and Thorn Creek (1). Eleven (11) American Pipits (in 5 circles) were all in southern Illinois except for the single at Clinton IA (1): Baldwin Lake (2), Cypress Creek (5), Rend Lake (1), and Warbluff Valley (2). Five unusual warbler species were noted: Warbluff Valley had the only Nashville Warbler; Lisle Arbortem the aforementioned ultra-rare Her-mit Warbler, Springfield tallied its first Pine Warbler (see photo) and Warbluff Valley noted 2; Bloom-ington had the only Palm Warbler, and solitary Common Yellowthroats were reported at Cypress Creek, Meredosia and Mermet Lake. A well-described Chipping Sparrow was present at Meredosia. Singleton Vesper Sparrows were at Horseshoe Lake and Meredosia. Thirty-one (31) Le Conte's Sparrows (in 6 circles) were noted this year with Cypress Creek having the highest tally of 25. Single Harris's Sparrows were noted at Bushnell, Middle Fork and Western Mercer. Always unexpected were the single Indigo Buntings at Horseshoe Lake and Rend Lake. Starved Rock tallied the only Yellow-headed Blackbird; it was along the Illinois River. The only Brewer's Blackbird noted was at Horseshoe Lake.

Low counts

Conspicuous by their absence were the winter finches. No crossbills, no redpolls, no grosbeaks! A paltry 44 Pine Siskins (in 7 circles) was about it. Even the Purple Finch (71 in 17 circles) numbers were extremely low. Other low counts were noted for American Coot (2,264 in 33 circles); clearly the early cold fronts pushed most of these birds out of the state. Killdeer, too, were on the move with only 166 (in 27 circles) statewide. Numbers of Ring-necked Pheasants remain low (291 in 37 circles), reflecting habitat problems and changing land uses. Kankakee mentioned a high count of 39 pheasants and Rock-ford's 54 birds were perhaps exceptions to the low counts. As for focusing on birds possibly affected by West Nile Virus and looking at the CBC data, American Crow numbers (113,088 this year vs. 173,428 last year) showed a 35 percent decrease. Blue Jay numbers (7,909 this year vs. 9,803 last year) showed a 19 percent decrease. Black-capped Chickadee numbers (7,443 this year vs. 8,738 last year) showed a 15 percent decrease. There are other variables that may have caused lower numbers such as

observer effort and some migration by jays and crows. Caution must be made not to suggest that West Nile Virus was the overall cause for these lower data aggregates. See Bonter and Hochachka (2003), Caffrey (2003), Caffrey and Peterson (2003) and LeBaron (2003) for information on the 2002/2003 CBC numbers for crows, jays and chickadees elsewhere in the nation, and commentaries on the numbers' possible relationship to West Nile Virus.

Acknowledgments

We must admire and envy Kelly McKay's achievement of participating on—twenty Christmas Bird Counts—a new record, missing only three days of the period—the 24th, 30th, and the 2nd. See his fascinating account in this issue of *Meadowlark*. Here's to CBC counting—a grand tradition!

Thanks go to Steven D. Bailey and Robert Montgomery for their helpful comments and review. A special thanks go to all the compilers who so faithfully get their field and feeder troops out each CBC period to count. I would also like to welcome Dan Wenny's Green Island/Lost Mound CBC circle (formerly Savanna in Illinois) and Jim Mountjoy's new Eastern Knox County CBC circle.

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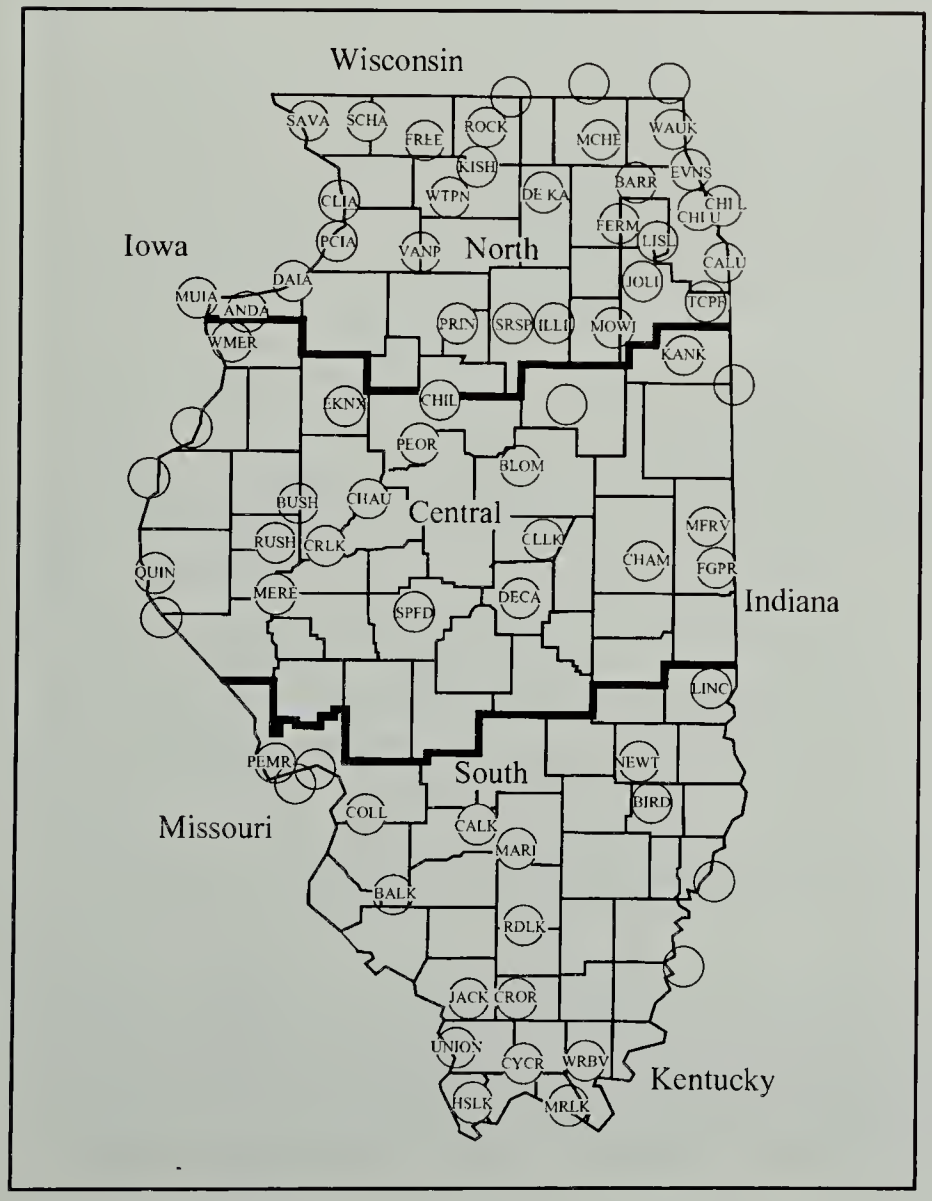


Key to Tables

Code	Description
dd	details desired
ed	excellent details
gd	good details
hc	high count for that circle
HC	All-time High Count
nc	new species to that circle's count
NC	New to the state's Count species list
nd	no details
ps	Present for some time
ph	Photographed
qd	questionable details
rn	remarkable number
rr	remarkable record
ud	unconvincing details
boldface	Species/number/item of note.

Note: 2002/2003 CBC count circles

The empty circles did not report to the Illinois CBC. some corcles bordering Illinois report to other states.

Illinois 2002/ 2003 Christmas Bird Count • Table 1

Count Name	Map I.D.	Date	Time		Temp		Sky	Snow	Water	Wind	Wind	Veloc.	Field	Feeder	Feeder	Parties	Party	Hours	Hours	Party	Miles	Miles	Owling	Owling	Compiler	Area
			Begin	End	Low	High				Direction	Low	High	Obsrv	Obsrv	Hours		Hours	on foot	by car	Miles	on foot	by car	Hours	Miles		
Andalusia	ANDA	26-Dec	500	1730	16	36	Clear	0	Partly Froz	SW	0	5	7	0	0	2-4	32.75	10.5	22.25	327.5	10.5	317	4	29	Kelly J. McKay	
Barrington	BARR	16-Dec	700	1700	27	31	Partly cloudy	0	Partly Open	E	5	15	29	3	6	12-13	80.5	55.25	25.25	317	57.5	259.5	0	0	Duane Heaton	
Calumet City-Sand Ridge	CALU	28-Dec	700	1600	31	37	Cloudy	0-1	Partly Froz	SW	21	30	38	8	16	16	80.75	41.5	39.25	326.5	29	297.5	0	0	Carolyn Marsh	
Chicago Lakefront	CHI L	25-Dec	730	1630	22	29	Partly cloudy; cloudy	1-4	Open	S	5	15	14	0	0	3-4	19.5	17	2.5	50.5	11.5	39	0	0	Joel Greenberg	
Chicago (urban)	CHI U	15-Dec	400	1600	35	47	Partly clear; partly cloudy	0	Partly Froz	SW	0	10	21	10	10	11	77	67	10	337	62	275	4	6	Jeffrey Sanders	
Clinton IA	CL IA	18-Dec	500	1700	43	58	Cloudy; light-heavy rain	0	Partly Froz	S	20	30	10	0	0	4	38	6	32	365	8	357	4	51	Kelly J. McKay	
Davenport IA	DA IA	15-Dec	515	1700	37	52	Partly cloudy; cloudy	0	Partly Froz	NW	0	5	24	8	14	8	64.25	29.25	35	466.25	23.25	443	5.75	35	Kelly J. McKay	
DeKalb	DEKA	14-Dec	330	1700	25	30	Cloudy; partly clear	0	Partly Open	W	0	10	13	0	0	4-5	42	26.75	15.25	377	20	357	4.25	5	Kevin Jury	
Evanston (north shore)	EVNS	28-Dec	400	1700	25	41	Partly cloudy; clear	0	Partly Open	NE	3	10	49	16	16	18	136	98.5	37.5	665.5	103	562.5	2.5	21	Ralph Herbst	
Fermilab-Batavia	FERM	14-Dec	445	1700	30	39	Cloudy; clear	0	Partly Open	SW	0	8	96	2	4	9-34	191.5	158.5	33	565.5	123	442.5	6	36	Denis Kania	N
Freeport	FREE	14-Dec	500	1600	25	40	Partly cloudy	0	Partly Open	VAR	0	5	13	6	6	5	36.03	4.92	31.11	516	6	510	3.3	51	Richard Benning	
Illini State Park	ILLI	29-Dec	430	1700	19	40	Clear; partly cloudy	0	Partly Open	S	2	10	11	5	6	5	40.75	9	31.75	441	25	416	1.75	25	Jim Hampson	O
Joliet	JOLI	21-Dec	700	1630	23	33	Cloudy; partly cloudy	0	Open	W	10	20	15	1	1	7	58	33	25	443	35	408	1	10	Jerry Olson	
Kankakee	KANK	4-Jan	330	1545	19	30	Cloudy	0-0.5	Partly Open	NW	5	20	31	11	18.5	8-14	64	39.25	24.75	263.1	34.5	228.6	4.75	21.3	Jed Hertz	R
Kishwaukee	KISH	28-Dec	715	1700	28	38	Cloudy	0	Partly Open	SW	5	10	28	7	14	12	83.25	44	39.25	533.25	54.75	478.5	3.5	4.5	Brad Grover	
Lisle Arboretum	LISL	15-Dec	500	1715	29	45	Cloudy; partly cloudy	0	Partly Froz	NE	9	13	63	4	8	13-25	162.75	120	42.75	460	128	332	17.7	55.75	Geoffrey A. Williamson	T
McHenry County	MCHE	14-Dec	700	1700	31	40	Foggy; clear	0	Partly Open	SW	8	14	35	0	0	14	79.75	36.25	43.5	568.25	25.75	542.5	1.5	6.25	David A. Frey	
Morris-Wilmington	MOWI	28-Dec	700	1700	27	31	Cloudy; partly cloudy	1-3	Partly Froz	SW	5	10	9	9	0.5	9	54.5	19	35.5	459.5	16.5	443	0	0	Jerry Olson	H
Muscatine IA-IL City	MU IA	22-Dec	515	1715	27	40	Cloudy; clear	0	Partly Open	SW	20	30	9	6	12	4	37.5	9.5	28	395	8	387	0	0	Kelly J. McKay	
Hennepin (formerly--Princeton)	HENN	15-Dec	445	1615	32	49	Cloudy; partly cloudy	0	Partly Open	SW	0	10	6	0	0	2	18.25	10	8.25	153.5	8.5	145	2	26	John McKee	
Princeton-Camanche IA	PC IA	23-Dec	445	1700	22	34	Clear; cloudy	0	Partly Open	W	10	20	6	0	0	4	31.25	10.5	20.75	224	7	217	0	0	Kelly J. McKay	
Rockford	ROCK	14-Dec	700	1630	32	41	Cloudy; clear	0	Partly Open	W	0	10	42	5	6.5	13-21	132	85.5	46.5	623.25	89.75	533.5	4.5	28.5	Daniel T. Williams	
Savanna (Green Is., Lost Mound)	SAVA	16-Dec	500	1700	22	35	Clear	0	Partly Froz	Calm	0	0	10	0	0	6	36	3	33	342.5	2.5	340	6.5	82	Dan Wenny	
Schapville	SCHA	14-Dec	730	1700	28	40	Foggy; partly cloudy	0	Partly Froz	W	0	5	20	2	4	6	40	4	36	341.5	6.5	335	1	1	Terrence N. Ingram	
Starved Rock State Park	SRSP	1-Jan	430	1700	25	35	Clear; partly clear	0	Partly Open	NE	5	10	13	2	4	6-7	52.25	24	28.25	367	23.5	343.5	2.25	45.25	John McKee	
Thorn Creek-Park Forest	TCPF	29-Dec	630	1600	25	37	Partly clear	2-4	Open	W	0	10	24	7	10	13	72.5	33.75	38.75	532	32	500	0.75	1	Jim Kelly	
Van Petten	VANP	5-Jan	500	1700	28	34	Cloudy	1	Partly Open	W	0	5	9	0	0	4	31.5	8.5	23	283	8	275	2	13	Kelly J. McKay	
Waukegan	WAUK	1-Jan	600	1700	18	25	Cloudy	0-1	Partly Open	NE	15	25	25	78	156	11-14	85.5	71.5	14	347	62	285	1.33	6	Joel Greenberg	
White Pines	WTPN	21-Dec	730	1700	18	34	Partly cloudy; clear	0	Partly Froz	NW	0	20	8	0	0	4	41	26	15	237.5	16.5	221	2	5	Jerry McCormick	
Bloomington-Normal	BLOM	14-Dec	700	1700	32	40	Cloudy; clear	0	Partly Open	NW	0	10	20	0	0	6	44	35	9	217	27	190	0	0	Dale Birkenholz	
Bushnell	BUSH	14-Dec	700	1700	29	48	Foggy; clear	0	Partly Open	NW	5	8	11	0	0	5	38.75	10.75	28	314.5	8.5	306	0	0	Larry Hood	C
Champaign County	CHAM	14-Dec	630	1630	27	37	Local fog; cloudy	0	Partly Open	S	3	10	23	1	2	10-12	59.5	43	16.5	292.7	41.5	251.2	0.25	0.2	Helen M. Parker	
Chautauqua N.W.R.	CHAU	21-Dec	515	1630	27	43	Clear; partly cloudy	0	Open	SW	5	15	21	1	1.5	6-7	55.25	24.75	30.5	333.5	17.5	316	1	4.25	Richard & Sigurd Bjorklund	E
Chillicothe	CHIL	4-Jan	700	16000	18	24	Partly cloudy	0	Open	VAR	0	5	15	0	0	7	56.75	17	39.75	459.75	15.75	444	0	0	Tracy Meints Fox	
Clinton Lake	CLLK	29-Dec	530	1645	23	40	Clear; partly cloudy	6	Partly Froz	SE	5	15	9	0	0	4	36	19	17	235	22	213	0	0	Myrna Deaton	N
Crane Lake-Sangamon	CRLK	14-Dec	600	1600	27	45	Foggy; partly cloudy	0	Open	NW	0	5	11	0	0	6	48	33	15	291	21	270	1	1	Robert Randall	
Decatur	DECA	14-Dec	700	1700	28	38	Foggy; cloudy	0	Partly Froz	NW	0	10	32	5	10	13	31	22.75	8.25	164.5	21.5	143	2	30.25	Ross Thompson	T
Eastern Knox County	EKNX	14-Dec	400	1730	28	45	Foggy; clear	0	Partly Open	VAR	0	12	13	1	2	4-6	42.75	13.75	29	381.75	20.5	361.25	7.25	53	Jim Mountjoy	
Forest Glen Preserve	FGPR	28-Dec	530	1700	29	39	Partly cloudy	3-8	Partly Open	N	5	10	12	0	0	7	51	35.5	15.5	268	33	235	1.5	3	Marilyn F. Campbell	R
Meredosia Island	MERE	18-Dec	645	1700	54	62	Cloudy; partly cloudy	0	Open	W	15	40	9	0	0	5	38.5	21	17.5	250	17	233	0	0	Tony Ward	
Middle Fork River Valley	MFRV	4-Jan	145	1715	8	32	Partly cloudy; cloudy	1-5	Partly Open	SE	4	7	13	0	0	7	63.5	34.5	29	413	36	377	4.5	32	Steven D. Bailey	A
Peoria	PEOR	14-Dec	700	1600	26	38	Foggy; cloudy	0	Partly Froz	VAR	0	5	22	0	0	8	67.5	10	57.5	487	22	465	0	0	L. H. Princen	
Quincy	QUIN	14-Dec	700	1600	29	54	Clear	0	Partly Open	S	0	5	10	1	2	5	36.5	6	30.5	343.5	4.5	339	3	14	Ken Vail	L
Rushville	RUSH	28-Dec	700	2200	24	47	Clear	0	Partly Froz	SW	10	10	5	13	20	5	8	5	3	16	3	13	2	2	Harold E. Hedden	
Springfield	SPFD	15-Dec	400	1700	35	53	Partly cloudy; cloudy	0	Open	SW	8	12	13	2	4	8-10	81	50	31	491	48	443	7	60	H. David Bohlen	
Western Mercer Co.	WMER	27-Dec	445	1730	24	34	Cloudy; partly cloudy	0	Partly Froz	S	5	10	7	0	0	2-4	36.25	9	27.25	244.75	8.75	236	5	53	Kelly J. McKay	
Baldwin Lake-Kaskaskia	BALK	14-Dec	445	1645	27	53	Foggy; clear	0	Open	SW	5	8	18	3	4	7	59.03	33.23	25.8	252.35	30.35	222	0.83	0.1	Tim Dever	
Bird Haven Sanct.-Olney	BIRD	14-Dec	630	1730	34	37	Foggy	0	Partly Froz	NW	5	10	16	0	0	7	39	13	26	378	15	363	0	0	Frank E. Storment	
Carlyle Lake	CALK	17-Dec	2400	1700	38	49	Foggy	0	Open	E	13	13	21	0	0	8	80	30	50	610	30	580	6	80	Dan Kassebaum	
Collinsville	COLL	21-Dec	500	1630	28	37	Cloudy; partly clear	0	Partly Froz	W	5	7	14	0	0	5	39.75	19	20.75	372	18	354	1.5	2	Joan Hendrickson	S
Crab Orchard N.W.R.	CROR	14-Dec	630	1745	30	45	Clear	0	Partly Froz	Calm	0	0	12	0	0	5-8	46	20.5	25.5	248.5	15.5	233	1.5	7.5	Tracy R. Evans & Mike Brown	
Cypress Creek	CYCR	16-Dec	645	1715	35	56	Clear; partly cloudy	0	Open	NE	0	5	22	0	0	17	131.5	93	38.5	541	86	455	2.5	1	Jeff Hoover	O
Horseshoe Lake	HSLK	19-Dec	530	1800	43	57	Cloudy	0	Open	S	5	15	12	0	0	7-8	70	29	41	354.25	27.25	327	1.5	20	Vernon Kleen	
Jackson County	JACK	1-Jan	345	1645	35	40	Cloudy	0	Open	NW	9	12	13	1	2	6	57.5	28.25	29.25	303.4	26	277.4	5.75	35	Rhonda S. Rothrock (Monroe)	U
Lincoln Trail State Park	LINC	14-Dec	800	1630	32	45	Cloudy	0	Open	Calm	0	0	12	0	0	6	34	7	27	257.5	8.5	249	1	30	Charlotte Connerton	
Marion Co. Kaskaskia Audubon	MARI	28-Dec	655	1655	25	45	Partly cloudy; cloudy	0	Partly Froz	VAR	0	5	6	0	0	2	23.45	10.4	13.05	106.98	3.875	103.1	0	0	Joseph E. Merkelbacb	T
Mermet Lake, Massac Co.	MRLK	31-Dec	230	1630	40	54	Cloudy; light-heavy rain	0	Open	SW	1	5	12	0	0	7	66	23	43	362	17	345	3	20	Frank Bennett	
Newton	NEWT	27-Dec	600	1630	19	34	Partly cloudy	5-8	Partly Open	SE	0	10	12	0	0	4-6	48	15	33	474.5	11.5	463	0.5	2	Jeffery W. Walk	H
Pere Marquette Park	PEMR	14-Dec	800	1630	30	35	Clear	0	Open	NE	0	5	20	0	0	9	86.25	26	60.25	253.5	26	227.5	2	5	Robert Thomas	
Rend Lake	RDLK	14-Dec	300	1700	38	59	Foggy; clear	0	Open	SW	5	10	13	0	0	6-7	63	24.5	38.5	503.5	16.5	487	8	55	Keith A. McMullen	
Union County	UNION	20-Dec	600	1730	34	50	Clear; partly cloudy	0	Open	S	5	15	19	0	0	9-12	97	58.5	38.5	383.5	50.5	333	4	45	Vernon Kleen	
Warbluff Valley Sanctuary	WRBV	21-Dec	500	1700	38	51	Clear; partly cloudy	0	Open	NW	0	5	19	2	2	10	78.75	35	43.75	319	24	295	1.5	10	Andrea Douglas	
					28.435	41.4							1165	220	362		3732.5	1957.3	1775.2	22251	1811	20440	160.4	1129.9		
					Avg Lo	Avg Hi							Total	Total	Total		Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total		

Species	WAUK	EVNS	CHI U	CHI L	CALU	MCHE	BARR	FERM	LISL	TCPF	JOLI	KANK	DEKA	MOWI	ILLI	ROCK	KISH	SRSP	FREE	WTPN	HENN	TOTALS
Common Loon				1	2 hc										2							5
Pied-billed Grebe					1				2					7								10
Horned Grebe			1		1																	2
American White Pelican									**1 ed**													**1**
Double-crested Cormorant	5 hc		2		2						8			56 hc	43 hc			1				117
Great Blue Heron (Blue form)	5	5	5		13	14 hc	3	23	35 hc	1	33 hc	18 hc		16	13	15	4 hc	57 hc	1		29	290
Great Egret											**1 gd**											1
Black-crowned Night-Heron			1		7																	8
Snow Goose		1						21			1			9								32
Snow Goose (blue form)							1									1	1	1				4
Snow Goose (white form)						1	2								3							6
Ross's Goose																**1**						1
Canada Goose	10456	5911	2068	1928	803	15314 hc	15699	20395	9553	1089	493	1693 hc	1045	4521	2887	626	6323	809	1201	1484 hc	832	105130
(large forms) Canada Goose																10188						10188
Mute Swan	40 hc		3		101	15 hc	6	3		1	58 hc	6 hc		2								235
Trumpeter Swan																	1					1
Tundra Swan											1											1
swan sp.																1	3					4
Wood Duck		1	2		1		1	3			6	3										17
Gadwall	9	17	21 hc		25	2	6	1	47		191 hc	18 hc		158	18	1					12	526
American Wigeon	8	1	1								1			23	10							44
American Black Duck	53	4	11		37	3	7	43	17	2	4	21		134	116	8	26			3 hc		489
Mallard	1995	2108	772	205	1590	789	1647	3062	2018	357	836	624	400	10328	40318 hc	1572	1533	363	11	143	102	70773
Blue-winged Teal											1											1
Northern Shoveler		1			2				1					4								8
Northern Pintail											1	1		1	13							16
Green-winged Teal	1							1	2		12											16
dabbling duck sp.								7														7
Canvasback				2							1											3
Redhead	2	91 hc	1	4		3																101
Ring-necked Duck	2		1	1	29	2	24		2		3			3								67
Greater Scaup	632	1508			7																	2147
Lesser Scaup	11	2	2	1	38	7								15							1	77
scaup sp	210			1	100																	311
White-winged Scoter	3																					3
dark-winged scoter sp.	3																					3
Long-tailed Duck		22																				22
Bufflehead	106	21	6	24	19			2 hc				5 hc		6	5							194
Common Goldeneye	134	651	10	299	1034 hc	3	29	42	18		17	87		83	66		1	21		16 hc		2511
Hooded Merganser	22	12 hc	11	6 hc	25	1	6		17		85 hc	2		61	24		3 hc				3	278
Common Merganser	41	2		105	148	1		16 hc	25		74			1513	7040		8	81			1670	10724
Red-breasted Merganser	50	206	2	679 hc	23									3			2 hc					965
merganser sp.				55																		55
Ruddy Duck				1										13							3	17
diving duck sp.																	1					1
duck sp.									6													6
Bald Eagle								1	1		1		1	25 hc	5	16 hc	10	34		5	69	168
adults											1			13	4	9	7	24		2	40	100
immatures								1	1				1	12	1	7	3	10		3	20	59
unknown																					9	9
Northern Harrier		1				4	1	5	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	4	2	1	1	2	2	36
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	4	2			2	1	4	3	4	1	5 hc		3		2	3	2	1			38
Cooper's Hawk	5	9	5 hc		4	7	5	**18 HC**	14 hc	5	2	5 hc	1	3	3	8	3	2	3 hc	1	2	105
Accipiter sp.	10						1		2													13
Red-shouldered Hawk		1							1			1										3
Red-tailed Hawk	42	30	8		35	62	103	104	100	76	31	35	42 hc	22	35	71	87	47	29	39	31	1029
Rough-legged Hawk						2	1	1		1	1		2	1		2	3	1	1	2	1	19
Buteo sp.										1			1									2
hawk sp.										3												3
American Kestrel	7	16	4	1	23	15	7	31	23	43	19	19	15	9	16	28	23	30	25	11 hc	14	379
Merlin			2 hc ed													1 hc						3
Peregrine Falcon	1	1	5 hc		1												1					8
falcon sp.																						**1**
Ring-necked Pheasant					1	2	1	5		11		39 hc	1	9	4	54	2	1	2	2		134
Wild Turkey	1					5		1	10					153	43	204 hc	15	98 hc				530
American Coot	10	1	1	5	324	2			5		2	2		56	2						1	411
Sandhill Crane						**4**			**29 hc ed**													33
Killdeer		1														1	2 hc	2				6
Wilson's Snipe	1	1						2	3							**13 hc rn**						20
Bonaparte's Gull															6							6
Ring-billed Gull	960	948	401	1105	2683	33	259	153	371	1	266	26	5	950	452	40	49 hc	468		4	226	9400
Herring Gull	511	83	60	390	3691	3	12	194	177		14	38 hc		618	69	83	78	189		2	68	6280
Thayer's Gull	2		1	2	**8 HC**													**1**				14
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1				**6 HC**									**1 ed**			**1 gd**	**1**				10
Glaucous Gull					4																	4

Species	WAUK	EVNS	CHI U	CHI L	CALU	MCHE	BARR	FERM	LISL	TCPF	JOLI	KANK	DEKA	MOWI	ILLI	ROCK	KISH	SRSP	FREE	WTPN	HENN	TOTALS
Great Black-backed Gull	1				3																	4
gull sp.							43	20	6	1						9	9					88
Rock Pigeon	315	1184	1100	403	2100	298	485	1289 hc	847	622	431	369 hc	187	63	192	1257	1085	496	607	401	40	13771
Ringed Turtle-Dove									36		6			2								44
Mourning Dove	538	581	195		533	166	190	1043	469	1187	183	584	198	126	358 hc	531	295	68	332 hc	132	298	8007
Monk Parakeet				2	81																	83
Barn Owl																**1 gd**						1
Eastern Screech-Owl	3	26	9			1		5	34	1		21 hc	15 hc		3	7 hc	2			1		128
Great Horned Owl	13	10	8		2	9	3	20	13	8	1	21 hc	10 hc	1	1	27 hc	6	4	3	1		161
Barred Owl		1					1 nc					3	2		3	13	2	2	3 hc	1	1	32
Long-eared Owl		1					9		2	7		1										20
Short-eared Owl						2												1				3
Northern Saw-whet Owl			1																			1
owl sp.																4	1					5
Belted Kingfisher	6	12 hc	10 hc		3	14 hc	3	15	18	1	8	13 hc	7 hc	8	5	19 hc	20 hc	7	1	3 hc	2	175
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	2			2		1	1		8		1	1			13	2	1	4			37
Red-bellied Woodpecker	51	82	31		23	49	36	108	143	36	13	80 hc	31	20	25	107	86	41	26 hc	33	30	1051
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	1	1						2	1		1							1			8
Downy Woodpecker	201	187	118	6	91	110	71	241	297 hc	81	50	87	95 hc	39	44	226	198	52	40	24	24	2282
Hairy Woodpecker	32	48	37		11	13	13	35	66 hc	27	7	23 hc	5	11	6	42	34	6	8		10	434
Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker	10	6	8		1	4	10	20	28	8	7	15	6	13	4	30	18	22 hc	9	4	55	278
Pileated Woodpecker																6 hc		4 hc		1	1	12
Eastern Phoebe			1				1 nc gd		1 ed													3
Northern Shrike	1				1			2	2							2						8
Blue Jay	89	11	14		19	48	10	51	71	52	6	98	40	10	13	228	101	20	91	31	9	1012
American Crow	220	366	357	52	430	478	174	173	167	102	206	334	454	18	39	2506	1583	146	140	415	137	8497
Horned Lark						4	1	69		387	14	66		59	140	357	52	23	38	13	3	1226
Black-capped Chickadee	511	238	166		60	327	199	559	516	83	97	35	91	72	67	559	511 hc	97	67	111	52	4418
Tufted Titmouse			1		1	1	2	4	11	10	1	47	2	6	17	30	50	9	13	28		233
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3					5		3	1			2	1	1		2	3		2	1		24
White-breasted Nuthatch	114	50	37		27	61	40	93	194 hc	48	19	79 hc	49	15	40	**311 HC**	168	33	34	64	23	1499
Brown Creeper	6	22	84 hc		2	6	15	29	37	2	1	26 hc	12	21	16	25	54	71 hc	2	17 hc	5	453
Carolina Wren	1	2	1	1	3			2	7	1	2	14 hc		5	2		1	5			2	49
Winter Wren	1	6 hc	1		2 hc		1	12 hc	12 hc	2			1			2	5 hc	5		1	5 hc	56
Marsh Wren									1 ed													1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	4	25	25 hc		2	15	19 hc	28	14		1	10 hc		3	5	24	30 hc	29		11 hc		245
Ruby-crowned Kinglet								1		1 gd			1			1						4
Eastern Bluebird	12	2				17 hc		3	16					2		3		8		4	9	76
Hermit Thrush	7 hc	6	1		1		4 hc	2	2	1	1						5 hc					30
American Robin	4918 hc	457	73	4	12	113	308	448	1498 hc		6	8	3			28	48	34	8	1		7967
Gray Catbird										1 gd	1 gd						1 he gd					3
Northern Mockingbird									1	1				1				1				4
Brown Thrasher								1		1			1									3
European Starling	3112	4900	1900	31	8684	1201	2332	3406	5353	3618	2690	3874	1377	1117	3051	4264	7828 hc	4430	1615	315	1203	66301
Cedar Waxwing	333 hc	184	31		3	161	249	298	495	6	28 hc	2				85	211	3	6	8	8	2111
Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler	14 hc	11	15			2		16	34	1		1		2			4				2	102
Hermit Warbler									1 NC PH RR PS													1
Eastern Towhee	1		1									1			1					1		5
American Tree Sparrow	343	122	12		295	320	310	1430	495	350	63	303 hc	94	782	173	996	408	130	130	149	112	7017
Field Sparrow						1											2	1		2	2	8
Fox Sparrow		5	1		2	1	14 hc	14	4		2	1	1	1		3	3	3			2	57
Song Sparrow	20	40	6		47	18	21	85	88	61	11	63 hc	8	11	16	57	44	29	14	22	33	694
Lincoln's Sparrow																					1 ed	1
Swamp Sparrow	3	9	4	2	8	5	3	33	37	8	10	2	4	1		18	10	2		9	9	177
White-throated Sparrow	42 hc	61	201 hc	2	12	43 hc	197 hc	227 hc	230	6	26	22	6	53	9	38 hc	47	24	4	3	27	1280
White-crowned Sparrow			1		1		71 hc	17	2	1	1	21		18		6 hc	9 hc	6		1	8	163
sparrow sp.																9						9
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco					1												2					3
Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco	965	664	405	6	566	485	989	846	993	492	372	675 hc	235	375	401	1527	1440 hc	216	372	233 hc	180	12437
Lapland Longspur		4			2					4		197			53		1		205			466
Snow Bunting	3	12		2	1					4		180 hc			11	1			4			218
Northern Cardinal	425 hc	289	170	21	167	127	233	523	465	243	168	322	55	88	167 hc	387	387	77	97	63	71	4545
Red-winged Blackbird	121	1			19	4	410	3	20	67	4	3		57	1	4		4453		1	3	5171
Eastern Meadowlark		1												6	1							8
meadowlark sp.							1															1
Yellow-headed Blackbird																		1 ed ps				1
Rusty Blackbird					1											1						2
Common Grackle	1	2	2		27	50	1				5	3	3	9	290		3	10333	2		2	10733
Brown-headed Cowbird	2				37	25	11	4		15	28	51		22	406	80 hc	1	7586		30 hc		8298
blackbird sp.										1					6000			720				6721
Purple Finch	1								4	9						2	2	1				19
House Finch	252	171	42	40 hc	102	117	89	167	124	143	108	247 hc	88	19	60	408	300	28	88	52	7	2652
Pine Siskin															8	13			6			27
American Goldfinch	571	612	160	15	469 hc	177	103	433	462	208	99	199 hc	49	79	81	491 hc	270	127	35	16	45	4701
House Sparrow	1604	1130	1800	9	1405	668	928	897	1016	1011	302	1796 hc	351	141	678	1679	1317	421	844	351	344	18692
Total individuals	**30212**	**23204**	**10439**	**5411**	**26047**	**21442**	**25423**	**36814**	**26819**	**10526**	**7143**	**12550**	**4998**	**22087**	**63581**	**29379**	**24844**	**31986**	**6126**	**4268**	**5831**	**429130**
Total species	75	72	67	33	74	63	60	67	72	58	67	65	44	71	61	68	67	65	44	51	53	

			Northern	*Counts*									*Central*	*Counts*									
Species	**VANP**	**SCHA**	**SAVA**	**CL IA**	**PC IA**	**DA IA**	**ANDU**	**MU IA**	**MFRV**	**FGPR**	**CHAM**	**BLOM**	**CLLK**	**DECA**	**CHIL**	**PEOR**	**EKNX**	**CHAU**	**CRLK**	**SPFD**	**MERE**	**BUSH**	**Totals**
Pied-billed Grebe							1		1				3					8		33			46
Double-crested Cormorant						14							7 hc			1		30 hc					52
Great Blue Heron (Blue form)	1		4	18 hc	2	8		9	14	3	5		27	15	39 hc	111 hc	1	61	84 hc	22	37		461
Great Egret																1 ed							1
Turkey Vulture																				2			2
Greater White-fronted Goose	4					3								6	1			166	5				185
Snow Goose							1				1				1			240					243
Snow Goose (blue form)																				1			1
Snow Goose (white form)									2										3				5
Ross's Goose									2														2
Canada Goose	1163		998	1287	154	3294 hc	603	692	1760	81	139		1130	1324	838	826	2773	3419	1383		204		22068
(large forms) Canada Goose												1504								2081			3585
Canada Goose (small races)												218								100			318
Mute Swan				1												1		29 hc		11			42
Trumpeter Swan			5				2																7
Tundra Swan				8	1									1				35					45
Wood Duck			1			2			4 hc										9	1			17
Gadwall			30	11					7	7		6	175		12	38	1	273	12	300 hc	36		908
American Wigeon				1																6	4		11
American Black Duck			24	116		10	3		16			12	65	26	22	1	1	122	20	16	4		458
Mallard	576	12	938	2760	112	1329	297	265	1111	37	87	1050	2100	1015	1096	248	95	28297	6884	3441	1463		53213
Blue-winged Teal																1 gd							1
Northern Shoveler				3									3					27		2			35
Northern Pintail							2											38	2		18		60
Green-winged Teal			1			1							11		2			2	5		10		32
Canvasback				15		54 hc		11							1			9	18	27			135
Redhead				1		3						3											7
Ring-necked Duck				1		7						1	45			1		30	21	6	8		120
Greater Scaup												2 hc	12 hc										14
Lesser Scaup	1			29	6	145 hc	1	8	4			5	40	1	175 hc			146	57	41	20		679
Bufflehead	2			1	4	16	5		2				2			2		7		41 hc	2		84
Common Goldeneye	11		20	58	164	187	67					1	175	52	234	123	7	53	24	300			1476
Hooded Merganser			1	3								1	12	3			1	61	2	127	2		213
Common Merganser	21		27	1140 hc	113	9	1	12				2	4		2416	1924 hc		262	99	52			6082
Red-breasted Merganser				1	2				1									2	2	5	4 hc		17
Ruddy Duck													1					185	1	80 hc			267
Mallard X Wood Duck (hybrid)												1											1
duck sp.									6														6
Bald Eagle	8	7	78	286 hc	159	63	55	88	2	2			2		80	33	2	106	44		78		1093
adults	1	4	39	65	105	36	29	50	1	1					53	28	1	54	25		33		525
immatures	1	3	38	54	47	13	17	38	1	1			2		18	5	1	52	19		45		355
unknown	6		1	167	7	14	9								9								213
Northern Harrier		4	2	1	2	1			1		4			1		1	1	5	7		14	1	45
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1			1	1	2	1		2		3				1	1		2	4	1	2		22
Cooper's Hawk	2	1	4	2	1	2		2	5	1	7 hc	2	3	1	1	3	1	3	3	4		1	49
Northern Goshawk	1 ed							1 ed															2
Accipiter sp.											3											1	4
Red-shouldered Hawk			1			1	1						1										4
Red-tailed Hawk	19	107	51	35	23	46	29	56	33	26	26	25	46	13	63	44	35	61	29	32	37	38	874
Rough-legged Hawk		5	1	1			1					1	3		3	2	3	4	1		1	1	27
Buteo sp.																	1						1
hawk sp.			1															1					2
American Kestrel	11	19	16	14	18	24	14	46 hc	14	9	32 hc	23	17	9	26	32	20	29 hc	21	28	18	37	477
Peregrine Falcon						1					1					1 ed							3
Ring-necked Pheasant	4	6		3	1	2	1	3	8	10	18	13	28	3		1	2	14	26	1		3	147
Wild Turkey		85	12	3	21		1	35	63 hc	13			19		28	8	3		31	3	44 hc		369
Northern Bobwhite				15 hc						16						4		10	45		2	1	93
American Coot			15			2						9	47	27	10	5		72		49			236
Killdeer			1	4		2				1				5		1	3	5	7 hc	3	2		34
Scolopacinae sp.	1																						1
Wilson's Snipe						1		1			2 hc		1	1		3 hc	1	1	9 hc	1	1		22
Bonaparte's Gull													200							80			280
Ring-billed Gull	134		409	135	288	2517 hc	340	338		2		2	500	77	2348	7900		836	168	2383	353		18730
Herring Gull	46		14	674	33	259	65	20					6	6	118	183		8	10	15	1		1458
Thayer's Gull	2			1		1								1									4
Lesser Black-backed Gull																							1
gull sp.	11	10																					21
Rock Pigeon	1103	95	172	165	60	1637	156	532	162	112	1582 hc	767	47	124	44	1031	46	22	12	649	51	137	8706
Mourning Dove	401	12	47	41	92	564 hc	271	710 hc	691 hc	293	614 hc	363	400 hc	74	150	334	57	61	203	545	63	296	6282
Eastern Screech-Owl	3		11	1	1	1	1	4	19	6	3	2	5		2		4	1	4	15		1	84
Great Horned Owl	17	6 hc	6	4	8	5	14	7	18	7	4	2	9	6	4 hc	1	4	3		9	1		135
Barred Owl	1		7	4	1	6	2	5	17	6		4	5	2	2	1	13	1	3	6		1	87
Long-eared Owl	2		9				2		1														14
Short-eared Owl										2													2
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1								1														2
Belted Kingfisher	6		6	5	8 hc	9	3	7	7	13	9	4	9	10	9	8	5	5	9	9	5	2	148

			Northern	*Counts*									*Central*	*Counts*								
Species	**VANP**	**SCHA**	**SAVA**	**CL IA**	**PC IA**	**DA IA**	**ANDU**	**MU IA**	**MFRV**	**FGPR**	**CHAM**	**BLOM**	**CLLK**	**DECA**	**CHIL**	**PEOR**	**EKNX**	**CHAU**	**CRLK**	**SPFD**	**MERE**	**BUSH**	**Totals**
Red-headed Woodpecker		5	2		1	13	4	1	2	10	1		1		3	4	1	7	42	2	1	7	107
Red-bellied Woodpecker	21	38	60	32	22	76	42	53	39	49	58	22	46	41	106	78 hc	54	88	117	113	34	43	1232
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1		2			3	1	2	2							1		1	1	3	2		19
Downy Woodpecker	54	38	78	21	35	138	68	102	76	84	90	56	53	42	98	72	75	62	105	129	30	41	1547
Hairy Woodpecker	11	12	21	9	12	20	8	18	11	11	9	10	11	3	12	29 hc	10	19	31	10	9	3	289
Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker	1	5	16	10	8	26	13	14	32	13	24	5	37	10	26	29	37	30	51	71	19	9	486
Pileated Woodpecker		2	7	3		2	6	3	18	14	7 hc			4	3	4 hc	5	8	18	8	2		114
Loggerhead Shrike							**1 ed**																1
Northern Shrike	1		1				1															1 ed	4
Blue Jay	35	104	147	77	38	110	53	77	128	118	88	31	31	55	50	35	70	284	156	206	66	116	2075
American Crow	432	364	219	68	33	873	98	401	89500	3109	364	1472	100	201	272	1084	217	281	25	611	1104	53	100881
Horned Lark	284		7	12	71		4	63	428	787	162	7	480	6	35	7	28	39	37	3	9	61	2530
Carolina Chickadee									89	115	36												240
Black-capped Chickadee	37	123	117	97	116	336	243	197			10	71	100	85	212	210	71	133	114	220	51	27	2570
chickadee sp.											1												1
Tufted Titmouse	2	25	25	33	16	18	18	35	69	106	29	13	31	47	62	72	23	51	37	116	17	11	856
Red-breasted Nuthatch		3	2								1			3	1	1				1	1		13
White-breasted Nuthatch	24	66 hc	92	24	54	131	79	73	60	114	29	52	45	23	110	92	71	59	88	124	28	32	1470
Brown Creeper	7	7 hc	10	20	17	17	5	6	17	11	44	22	4	3	9	23	8	22	23	88 hc	16 hc	2	381
Carolina Wren				16 hc	2	9	2	3	22	29	61	8	20	20	7	5	10	6	42	77 hc	28	9	376
House Wren						**1 ed**																	1
Winter Wren	1		2		1	1		1	3	5	7 hc	3	10 hc	6	3	3 hc	3		15	8 hc	1		73
Marsh Wren																						**1 ed**	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	7	2		11	10	9	5	4	33 hc	17	21	5	26	6	8 hc	15 hc	22	48	40	125 hc	17	3	434
Ruby-crowned Kinglet								**1 ed**			1					1	1		3	6 hc	1		14
Eastern Bluebird	4	14	63	6			6	5	37	39	5		11	11	26	16	23	25	38	25 hc	51	18	423
Hermit Thrush	1						1			1	4	1	2	1	1			4 hc	5	1	2		24
American Robin			14	60	3	4	1	6	9	10	232	5	15	9	62	65	1	38	4	62			600
thrush sp.																1							1
Northern Mockingbird														5		1	1	10 hc	1	11	2	3	34
Brown Thrasher																	1						1
European Starling	2139	564	173	2250 hc	2710	5308 hc	1045	2936	1264	816	3692	1314	2700	2557	2819	1492	1627	1010	1701	14338	257	1333	54045
American Pipit				1 ed																			1
Cedar Waxwing		77	251	15		37	4			8	47	20	9	2	22	30	1	73	35	42		1	674
Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler								6 hc			7 hc		1		5 hc	2	6 hc	15 hc	4	17			63
Pine Warbler																				**1 nc ph**			1
Palm Warbler												**1 ed**											1
Common Yellowthroat																					**1 ed**		1
Eastern Towhee										1	1									1			3
American Tree Sparrow	533	196	156	62	135	223	367	371	518	103	150	303	400	463	108	122	430	427	338	155	173	197	5930
Chipping Sparrow																					**1 ed**		1
Field Sparrow										1	1		2	1		1		1	1	5	3		16
Vesper Sparrow																					**1 ed**		1
Savannah Sparrow									1				4	1					5		2		13
Le Conte's Sparrow																			1				1
Fox Sparrow						1			3		3	2		3		1		2	4	4		1	24
Song Sparrow	26	10	9	27	37	89	59	28	82	84	110	16	64	232 hc	37	52	46	110	189	103	89	58	1557
Swamp Sparrow	2		3	23	2	14	22	5	23	9	21	22	13	310 hc	14	17 hc	7	24	49	21	70	1	672
White-throated Sparrow	2		23	7	2	42	37	8	19	17	147	26	14	61	39	28	4	87 hc	21	96	38	5	723
Harris's Sparrow									1 ed													**1 ed**	2
White-crowned Sparrow						1	5		1	5	14		20	18	24	125 hc	10	27 hc	37	13	18	4	322
sparrow sp.																12							12
Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco	410	427	561	439	479	573	468	551	978	572	289	115	200	334 hc	702	292	626	1096	358	442	234	554	10700
Lapland Longspur	630				3	4				8	60	1	10		1		61		5				783
Snow Bunting												1							11				12
Northern Cardinal	111	85	111	152	140	331	120	216	217	210	353	155	215	153	283	210	101	158	299	254	227	179	4280
Red-winged Blackbird	3		13	2		2700	451	406 hc	94			1		6	11	7	33	750	499	1034	890		6900
Eastern Meadowlark									2		1		43			1		17		4	6		74
meadowlark sp.							1																1
Rusty Blackbird																3	1	40 hc	2	67		1	114
Common Grackle	1			37	1	710		1	10			1	3	8	1	2		19	34	1930	25	1	2784
Brown-headed Cowbird				18	8	589 hc	400	102	11	13	750		150		5		52	1	1	120			2220
Purple Finch						3	1		1		1				21	5							32
House Finch	11	38	1	30	16	64	7	169	128	31	49	16	1	35	92	65	7	2		37		11	810
Pine Siskin						3										6			2				11
American Goldfinch	73	105	105	57	89	181	58	220	105	105	222	84	63	68	190	192	47	144	151	204	22	50	2535
House Sparrow	425	528	398	624	577	692	775	1669	946	470	1373	137	800	221	899	1186	449	421	309	509	477	889	14774
Eurasian Tree Sparrow							4	35									2	643 hc	632	20	215	61	1612
Total individuals	**8842**	**3207**	**5602**	**11092**	**5913**	**23580**	**6423**	**10640**	**98953**	**7742**	**11115**	**8021**	**10895**	**7857**	**14105**	**18574**	**7322**	**41034**	**14948**	**31965**	**6725**	**4307**	**358862**
Total species	**57**	**37**	**61**	**69**	**54**	**73**	**66**	**57**	**66**	**55**	**58**	**57**	**73**	**62**	**66**	**77**	**62**	**84**	**83**	**85**	**70**	**47**	

		Central										*Southern*	*County*								Statewide
Species	**RUSH**	**WMER**	**QUIN**	**LINC**	**NEWT**	**BIRD**	**MARI**	**BALK**	**RDLK**	**JACK**	**CROR**	**CYCR**	**CALK**	**UNION**	**HSLK**	**MRLK**	**COLL**	**WRBV**	**PEMR**	**Totals**	**Totals**
Pacific Loon									1 ph											1	1
Common Loon									5								1			6	11
Pied-billed Grebe					9	12		25	6	8	4	3	1	2		2				72	128
Horned Grebe					7	2		1	11											21	23
grebe sp.						1														1	1
American White Pelican								1 hc									22 hc		8	31	32
Double-crested Cormorant								2	25		4		21			3			14	69	238
Great Blue Heron (Blue form)	1	26	28	2	37	14	1	44	87	33	41	25	53	49	111	31	16	14	69	682	1433
Great Egret																					2
Black-crowned Night-Heron																					8
Black Vulture										29 hc		149				5		121 hc		304	304
Turkey Vulture				39				2 hc	1	1	2	212		4	3	5		88		357	359
Greater White-fronted Goose								54	1	178 hc		1	105	1000	200				8	1547	1732
Snow Goose								24595 hc	56915 HC		1975	23096 hc	12955	850	2000			6		122392	122667
Snow Goose (blue form)																			914	914	919
Snow Goose (white form)																			537	537	548
Ross's Goose								7	6 hc			1 hc	4	3	3					24	27
Canada Goose	380	170	994	106	954	282	72	2136	1128	2693 hc	4500	269	81	5000	5000	139	728	81	1698	26411	153609
(large forms) Canada Goose																					13773
Canada Goose (small races)																					318
Mute Swan					1			6 hc									3			10	287
Trumpeter Swan																					8
Tundra Swan																1				1	47
swan sp.																					4
Wood Duck				2	1			1			3	168 hc		19	1	11			1	207	241
Gadwall					350			132	25		174	1848		184	550 hc	30	1308 hc	9	601	5211	6645
American Wigeon					15			10	8		3	475		29	40	11	4	1	46	642	697
American Black Duck					86			1	115		18	229	1	21	80	2		6	31	590	1537
Mallard	12	84	856	11	556	14	4	537	14434	131	1297	23083	25354	4500	5000 Mallard	273	485	382	63313 hc	150326	274312
Blue-winged Teal												2							1	3	5
Northern Shoveler					6			33 hc	1			574	10	14	60	6	1		81	786	829
Northern Pintail					2				4	1	3	236	14	22	100	3	2	2	3001 hc	3390	3466
Green-winged Teal								20	32		1	536		13	180	7			1000	1789	1837
dabbling duck sp.																					7
Canvasback					52	1		3	200 hc		3	10	4	1		21			17	312	450
Redhead								17			6	3	1			2	4 hc	7		40	148
Ring-necked Duck					322			9	205		25	6078		800 hc	1	634	2	1	108	8185	8372
Greater Scaup					2 ed				2							3				7	2168
Lesser Scaup					45			108 hc	576 hc	3	3	56	90	15	6	618		20	98	1638	2394
scaup sp.								10												10	321
Surf Scoter					1 ed															1	1
White-winged Scoter																1 ed				1	4
Black Scoter									3 hc ed											3	3
dark-winged scoter sp.																					3
Long-tailed Duck																					22
Bufflehead					85			6	66		21	7	2	1		2	4		20	214	492
Common Goldeneye		6			115			6	2128 hc	2	3		2883 hc	1		6	19		247	5416	9403
Hooded Merganser			8 hc		285			20	65	30 hc	166	13	109	20		6	15	2	52	791	1282
Common Merganser		14			40				2		80	7	1							144	16950
Red-breasted Merganser									12		5		23							40	1022
merganser sp.																					55
Ruddy Duck					95				65 hc		3		9	38		3	62		65	340	624
diving duck sp.																					1
Mallard X Wood Duck (hybrid)																					1
duck sp.																					12
Bald Eagle	3	226 hc	36					4	7	5	11	16 hc		44	47	7	3	6	117	532	1793
adults	3	117	27					3	4	3	5	12		16	23	6	2	5	50	276	901
immatures		75	9					1	3	2	5	3		28	20	1	1	1	63	212	626
unknown		34									1	1			4				4	44	266
Northern Harrier		2	1	1	12	4	5	1	1	3		88	9	20	7	7		12	3	176	257
Sharp-shinned Hawk		1			1		1		4	1	3	8 hc	2	6	1	3	4	2	2	39	99
Cooper's Hawk	1			1	4	3		3	11 hc	6 hc	2	7 hc	4	3	3	5	5	1	3	62	216
Northern Goshawk																					2
Accipiter sp						2														2	19
Red-shouldered Hawk							3	4	7 hc	14 hc	5	27 hc		19	1	6		13		99	106
Red-tailed Hawk	15	29	44	17	24	16	9	67	46	36	29	83	54	78	35	45	38	43	67	775	2678
Rough-legged Hawk		1	1									5						1		8	54
Buteo sp.						1														1	4
Golden Eagle													1 hc							1	1
hawk sp.						4											1	3		8	13
American Kestrel		16	29	29	21	52	14	39	38	38	11	78	53	55	48	48	44	34	25	672	1528
Merlin																					3
Peregrine Falcon								1												1	12
falcon sp.																					1
Ring-necked Pheasant		1			5								3						1	10	291
Greater Prairie-Chicken					22															22	22
Wild Turkey	26	1	12	48 hc	36	13	22	125 hc	88 hc	17	78 hc	67		62		57	39 hc	39	39	769	1668
Northern Bobwhite		10	10		60 hc	26	17	38	13	1	11	23	12	15	13	6	11	37	13	316	409
Virginia Rail												1 ed hc								1	1
American Coot					16	188		300 hc	52	351	350	4		1		315	36	1	3	1617	2264
Sandhill Crane													1							1	34
Killdeer		2	2			6		13	16			5	2	36	2	6		25	11	126	166

		Central										*Southern*	*Counts*								Statewide
Species	RUSH	WMER	QUIN	LINC	NEWT	BIRD	MARI	BALK	RDLK	JACK	CROR	CYCR	CALK	UNION	HSLK	MRLK	COLL	WRBV	PEMR	Totals	Totals
Greater Yellowlegs												**1 hc**							**2 hc ed**	3	3
Scolopacinae sp.																					1
Least Sandpiper															**1**				10 hc ed	11	11
Dunlin													**1 ed**							1	1
Wilson's Snipe		12	6					1			1	1				2			3 hc	26	68
American Woodcock											1	1				1				3	3
Bonaparte's Gull								18	269	178 hc	161		490				2			1118	1404
Ring-billed Gull	9	190	213		525			465 hc	3495	459	1511	509	**28546 HC**	60	67	825	1911	134	658	39577	67707
Herring Gull			5		10	2			57		5	6	160 hc	1		6	14	4	11	281	8019
Thayer's Gull																1				1	19
Lesser Black-backed Gull									**1 hc**				**1 hc**			1				3	14
Glaucous Gull													**1 hc**							1	5
Great Black-backed Gull																					4
Black-legged Kittiwake													**1 gd**							1	1
gull sp.						1					2000									2001	2110
Rock Pigeon	4	116	27	191	80	17	4	70	82	234	88	82	86	151	42	312	177	88	15	1866	24343
Ringed Turtle-Dove																					44
Eurasian Collared-Dove					34 hc						5 hc	3	**53 HC**			2		5		102	102
Mourning Dove	63	275 hc	101	64	725 hc	468	132	142	89	91	102	527	112	308	436	214	245	266	119	4479	18768
Monk Parakeet													2 hc							2	85
Barn Owl												1								1	2
Eastern Screech-Owl		1	1		3			3 hc	10	5		7	16 hc	15	10	3	2	7		83	295
Great Horned Owl	1	13	1		1	3	2	16 hc	9	14	5	15	1	12	11	5	2	3	5	119	415
Barred Owl	1	10	2	3		2	2	9 hc	2	11	8	**39 HC**	15 hc	10	1	7	1	8	3	134	253
Long-eared Owl		2 hc							2	1 hc		1 hc						1		7	41
Short-eared Owl					15							28						1		44	49
Northern Saw-whet Owl																					3
owl sp.																					5
Belted Kingfisher		4	3	2	9	1	2	11 hc	5	10	7	11	4	8	10	14 hc	3	4	7	115	438
Red-headed Woodpecker	12	2	3	32	5	3	8	11	35	345 hc	13	147	41 hc	465 hc	124	29	17	9	63	1364	1508
Red-bellied Woodpecker	23	73	38	46	95	38	49	89 hc	60	171 hc	93	215 hc	137 hc	239	162	83	47	100	140	1898	4181
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		1				1	1		5 hc	4	2	10		15		4	1	10	2	56	83
Downy Woodpecker	23	85	37	20	85	47	33	95 hc	67	110	38	286 hc	132 hc	173	75	38	33	67	76	1520	5349
Hairy Woodpecker		18	6	10	13	6	3	17 hc	19	23	9	82	25 hc	31	8	16	6	6	14	312	1035
Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker	3	35	13	10	19	5	10	52 hc	29	70	64	177	51 hc	134	93	57	24	63	58	967	1731
Pileated Woodpecker	1	15 hc	15	3	3	1		11 hc	2	47	22	105 hc	7	52	18	12	3	35	27	379	505
woodpecker sp.						7														7	7
Eastern Phoebe								1				2		2		1		1		7	10
Loggerhead Shrike		1 gd			1	1	2	4	3	1	1	19	4	1	1	4		2		45	46
Northern Shrike																					12
Blue Jay	46	112	93	125	147	151	190	192 hc	325	519	307	578 hc	352 hc	572	364	246	63	305	135	4822	7909
American Crow	53	140	65	200	68	60	446	58	140	78	164	163	179	247	94	34	999	305	217	3710	113088
crow sp						1														1	1
Horned Lark			3		1012	47	158	13	45	20	9	116	953	228	169	157	50	46	79	3105	6861
Barn Swallow														**2 HC ed**						2	2
Carolina Chickadee				67	71	91	99	144	218 hc	399 hc	**161**	578	229 hc	548	259	156	74	215 hc		3289	3529
Black-capped Chickadee	59	173	63																160	455	7443
chickadee sp						1														1	2
Tufted Titmouse	41	21	46	35	71	83	80	150 hc	114	277	70	355 hc	136 hc	**479 HC**	154	122	28	139 hc	160	2561	3650
Red-breasted Nuthatch								2	1											3	40
White-breasted Nuthatch	30	164 hc	44	42	68	37	13	76 hc	27	120 hc	23	213 hc	70 hc	224	56	38	22 hc	94 hc	112	1473	4442
Brown Creeper		16	5	1			2	15 hc	11	15	2	86 hc	30 hc	43	29	7	3	9	20	294	1128
Carolina Wren		7 hc	15	12	7	16	19	29	45	77	58	267 hc	65 hc	132	110	58	26	61	47	1051	1476
House Wren														1					**2 hc ed**	3	4
Winter Wren			1					1	2	3		**61 HC**	6	18	13	9	1	1	8	124	253
Marsh Wren														**2 ed**		**1 ed**				3	5
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	4	5	14	5		2	5	74	99 hc	30	**241 HC**	54	106	106	46	3	52	27	874	1553
Ruby-crowned Kinglet								2	1	2	2	4		19	20	4			2	56	74
kinglet sp.										3										3	3
Eastern Bluebird		15	20	18	19	79	62	70 hc	76	97	87	135	40 hc	138	121	79	22 hc	139	85	1302	1801
Hermit Thrush		3 hc							6 hc	2	1	8	3 hc	8	5	5	1	7		49	103
American Robin	2	1	1	9	4	6	19	175	25	26	24	181	21	88	60	74	58	31	6	811	9378
thrush sp.																					1
Gray Catbird								**1 ed**												1	4
Northern Mockingbird	1				12	16	18	29 hc	25	31	26	62	15 hc	11	13	33	51 hc	22	7	372	410
Brown Thrasher					1			1	3	2		4		8	2	3				24	28
European Starling	71	922	823	1450	2525	2060	486	6150	4282	980	3048	23005	7155	4800	3900	47079	8063	1715	1538	120052	240398
American Pipit								**2 ed**	1			5 hc						2		10	11
Cedar Waxwing		135	6	16		16	18	414 hc	66	31	51	61	126	24	24	13	8	3	52	1064	3849
Nashville Warbler																		**1 ed**		1	1
Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler								2		4	1	12	1	9	3	9	1	6	1	49	214
Hermit Warbler																					1
Pine Warbler																		**2 ed**		2	3
Palm Warbler																					1
Common Yellowthroat												**1 ed hc**				**1 ed**				2	3
Eastern Towhee					1		2	1	13	5	27	22		11	11	51		13		157	165
American Tree Sparrow	5	329	93	11	201	20	64	109	61	19	1	275	167	49	36	105	33	13	47	1638	14585
Chipping Sparrow																					1
Field Sparrow		1 gd		7		4	1		4	19	77	280	9	33	121	297 hc	1	71	2	927	951
Vesper Sparrow															**1**					1	2
Savannah Sparrow					7		1	2	1		2	87	16	8		4	6	5	3	142	155
Le Conte's Sparrow									1		1	25		1		2				30	31
Fox Sparrow								5	**7**	2	5	22	1		24	1	5	19	13	104	185
Song Sparrow	4	51	9	12	84	34	56	43	143	144	54	**1447 HC**	197	206	261	141	59	71	176	3192	5443

		Central										*Southern*	*Counts*								*Statewide*	
Species	**RUSH**	**WMER**	**QUIN**	**LINC**	**NEWT**	**BIRD**	**MARI**	**BALK**	**RDLK**	**JACK**	**CROR**	**CYCR**	**CALK**	**UNION**	**HSLK**	**MRLK**	**COLL**	**WRBV**	**PEMR**	**Totals**	**Totals**	
Lincoln's Sparrow														1								
Swamp Sparrow		41 hc	1		1			46 hc	63	189	18	**985 HC**	63	108	84	47	4	6	106	1762	2611	
White-throated Sparrow	1	12	1		65	24	68	138	163	461	95	720	227	896	743	696 hc	71	140	182	4703	6706	
Harris's Sparrow		**1 ed**																		3	3	
White-crowned Sparrow	4	1	13	20	18	36	5	46	39	17	5	199	127	123	75	143	24	11	116	1022	1507	
sparrow sp.						5														5	26	
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco																					3	
Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco	116	437	168	307	486	135	284	154	263	816	234	322	495	428	599	732	128	825	294	7223	30360	
Lapland Longspur					11				10			33	542	13	2					611	1860	
Snow Bunting																					230	
Northern Cardinal	133	144	176	102	201	303	298	305 hc	319	606 hc	246	1101 hc	747 hc	852 hc	743	686 hc	129	303	488	7882	16707	
Indigo Bunting									**1 ed**						**1 ed**					2	2	
Red-winged Blackbird		20			6		1	719	104712	4719	5023	82481 hc	200	14000	2000	7314	14254	3740	1334	240523	252594	
Eastern Meadowlark			10		215	4	53	16	52	17	58	237	103	130	43	109		39	21	1107	1189	
Western Meadowlark							**1 ed**													1	1	
meadowlark sp.		1				1	1													3	4	
Yellow-headed Blackbird																					1	
Rusty Blackbird		6 hc	1				22		202	1	201	185	1	82	250	55	1	80	31	1096	1234	
Brewer's Blackbird															1					1	1	
Common Grackle		1	12		3		22	1356	518946	2457	7327	213236 hc	84	9000	4000	9380	405758 hc	3480	28	1175090	1188607	
Great-tailed Grackle																	**1 gd**			1	1	
Brown-headed Cowbird					809 hc			8	4226	153	41	5524	208	600	400	615	3397	7	4	15992	26510	
blackbird sp.								4068		26650	7592	20000					28880	1684	375	89249	95970	
Purple Finch	6								1	6	3	4								20	71	
House Finch	9	2	17	13	36	75		32	9	16	31	9	2	9	7	26	8	11	3	315	3777	
Pine Siskin												6								6	44	
American Goldfinch	70	162	80	96	721	144		151	70	128	69	337 hc	194	237	179	164	50	156 hc	173	3181	10462	
House Sparrow	208	416	405	475	1080	859	45	349 hc	377	356 hc	29	313	3507 hc	184	57	121	155	80	416	9432	43028	
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	64	127	21				175										6		121	514	1951	
Total Individuals	**1502**	**4907**	**4689**	**3669**	**12845**	**5552**	**3106**	**44475**	**715823**	**44921**	**38159**	**413754**	**88073**	**49280**	**39691**	**72830**	**467788**	**15680**	**80018**	**2106762**	**2894753**	
Total species	**37**	**62**	**55**	**41**	**78**	**51**	**52**	**91**	**102**	**76**	**89**	**105**	**88**	**93**	**81**	**99**	**76**	**83**	**87**		**164**	

Gyrfalcon in LaSalle County

by Cindy Alberico

On the afternoon of 4 January 2003, I decided to continue birding from my current location in Grundy County to see if I could relocate the Snowy Owl that had been reported in the area of the LaSalle Nuclear Power Plant. The Snowy Owl had been previously seen near the intersection of 1900N and 2700E so I decided the quickest way to find the owl was to drive south on Route 170 all the way to 1900 and turn west until I found the right intersection, and start scanning the fields from there.

Immediately upon turning onto 1900N, I noticed a very large brown raptor perched on a tree on the south side of the road. My initial impression was of a very large accipiter mainly because the tail seemed extremely long for a hawk.

Above & left: Immature Gyrfalcon. LaSalle County. Winter 1991. Photos by Barb Dodge.

Below: Dark morph juvenile Gyrfalcon. LaSalle County. Photo taken in January 2003 by Gregory S. Lambeth.

The bird was sitting in profile facing south. It was dark chocolate brown with no markings on the back. It had a very long tail and very heavy streaking on the breast. The wings were long and extended about half of the way down the tail, which was finely barred underneath. The bill seemed to be bluish gray at the base going toward dark gray/black at the tip. There was an indication of a dark mask, and the feet were grayish.

I stayed in the car and edged a little closer, but the bird flushed and flew over me to a utility pole behind me. I noticed some checkering on the underside of the wings and also noted that the wings seemed to be less pointed and more rounded at the tips. I turned the car around to get a better look as it was now facing away from me, when the bird took off and flew quickly to the east towards Grundy County where I lost sight of it.

I looked through the field guides that I keep in the car (National Geographic 2002, Peterson 1980 and Robbins 1983) and quickly eliminated any accipiter species by size, uniformity of color, color of streaking on the breast and the amount of the barring on the tail. Red-Tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamai-censis*) was eliminated based on coloration, feather pattern, size, length of tail and the shape of the wings when the bird flew. Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) was ruled out based on size and coloration. Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) was a little harder for me to quickly eliminate as the bird did seem to have an indication of a mask, and the coloration resembled that of an immature Peale's as pictured in the National Geographic.

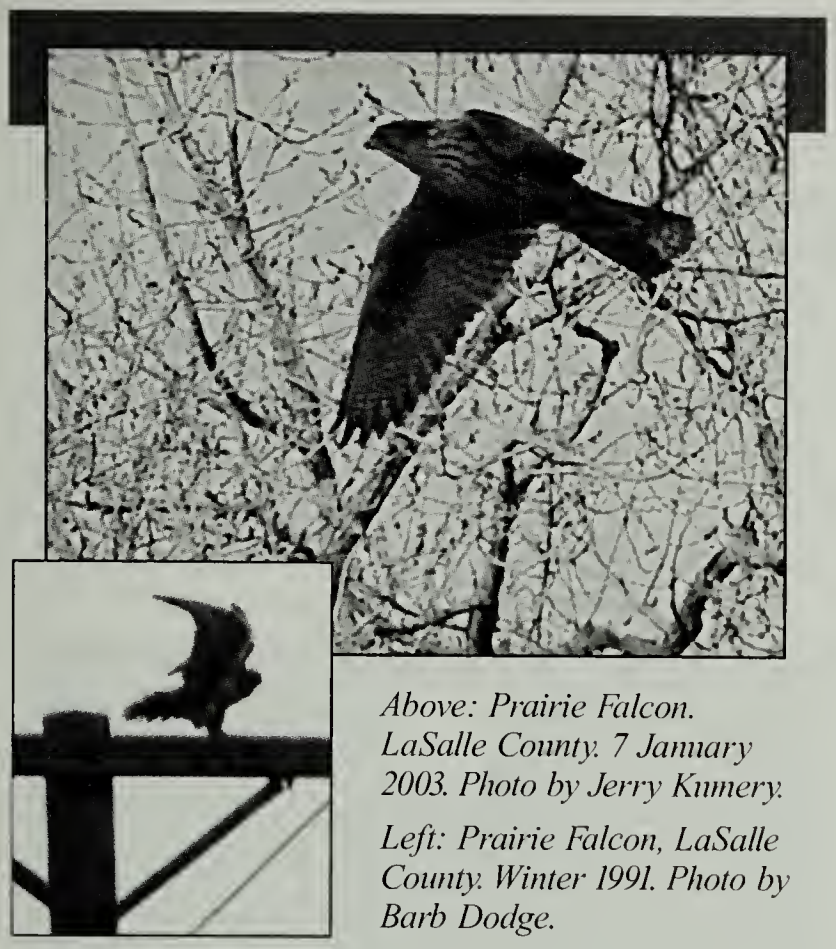
Though I never did see the bird again that afternoon, I did get to see the Snowy Owl right where it had been seen previously.

Once I got back home, I consulted Sibley (2000), Dunne (1988) and Clarke (1987) and concluded that the bird I saw had in fact been a dark morph juvenile Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*).

I cautiously posted the sighting of a large brown falcon on the Illinois List serve (IBET), and the bird was subsequently seen quite a few times during the next few weeks by many birders, although some had better luck finding the bird than others.

At least one Prairie Falcon was also seen in the vicinity of the Gyrfalcon during the 2003 winter season. Interestingly, in 1991, two Gyrfalcons and one Prairie Falcon were seen in the same general area as the Gyrfalcon and Prairie Falcon were seen during the 2003 winter season.

Bohlen (1989) lists both Gyrfalcon and Prairie Falcon as rare migrants and winter residents. The Illinois



Above: Prairie Falcon. LaSalle County. 7 January 2003. Photo by Jerry Kumery.

Left: Prairie Falcon, LaSalle County. Winter 1991. Photo by Barb Dodge.

Ornithological Records Committee (IORC) lists these birds as casual and requests documentation on any sightings of these two species.

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Bird Finding Guide

Paul Douglas Forest Preserve

by Stan Stec

More than 100 Bobolinks gathered in about 30 square yards of grasslands at the Paul Douglas Forest Preserve one day in the spring of 2002. Many of these declining songbirds that winter in South America, remained to nest, as attested to by subsequent point counts. In fact, after several seasons and many timed observations and point counts, some 165 bird species, many rare or state-listed have been found at this Cook County Forest Preserve. If you want to observe some rare and state-listed breeding wetland and grassland species, here's a good place to bird.

Start your birding from the Central Avenue parking lot by walking on the gravel area to the dirt hill for a closer view of both the wetland and Poplar Creek, which enters the preserve under Algonquin Road and exits under Central Road. A new dam was constructed in the fall of 2001, which created a permanent wetland where previously the area dried in the summer and could be crossed on foot. The wetland was fully formed during the 2002 nesting season and was used by numbers of wetland birds. Walk west along the southern edge of the wetland, then turn north and follow the edge of the soccer field until you reach the footpath leading north along the western side of the wetland. In summer the path gets overgrown with high prairie grasses.

Search here in spring for migrants including Black-

Paul Douglas Forest Preserve photo taken in fall 2003 by Stan Stec.

crowned Night-Heron, Green Heron, American Bittern, Double-crested Cormorant, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Common Moorhen, Virginia Rail and several species of swallows. The wetland provides a natural setting for viewing Great Blue Heron and Great Egrets as they interact and feed.

March is a good time to look for a variety of ducks such as Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Mallard, American Black Duck, Ring-necked Duck, American Wigeon, Wood Duck, and Ruddy Duck. Canada Geese also nest here.

On a foggy mid-March day in 2003, at 8 a.m. I began observing birds at the wetlands until 1:40 p.m. This was the first day for a relatively ice-free wetland and the birds were taking advantage of it, but, be advised that it can be quite windy out here this time of year, so dress appropriately. On that day I observed Canvasbacks, Green-winged Teal, Bufflehead, Northern Shoveler, Ring-necked Duck, American Coot, American Wigeon and Mallard along with a copious amount of Red-winged Blackbirds and American Robins and other more common species. Plus, I saw a Northern Shrike, a rare and irruptive northern Illinois visitor. This bird is often found in winter at Paul Douglas, and it was probably almost time for it to head back north with the ducks.

Keep birding here in late spring and summer to find some of the state's rarest wetland breeders including Yellow-headed Blackbird and Pied-billed Grebe. You may also find Ruddy Ducks, American Coots and Soras breeding here, as well as Great Blue Herons, which fledged 19 young in 2002.

A footpath at the preserve runs north through open grasslands for about 1.5 miles. During the breeding season, to the west of the path and just north of the soccer field you should see and hear the state-listed endangered Henslow's Sparrow along with Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Sedge Wren, and other grassland species. Please do stay on the trails so you won't disturb these ground nesters, as well as other grassland birds. During migration here, you may find a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow in the grasslands, and with luck, a Rough-legged Hawk, Short-eared Owl, or Northern Harrier in winter.

As you approach the northern border of the wetland, the path veers west around a small woodland then goes east and then continues north. Here's a good spot for many species of migrating birds as well as breeding Wood Thrush and Eastern Wood-Pewee.

Continue north and look and listen for more grassland species. The path gently rises as you go north until you are high enough to see a spectacular view of forests, shrub land and wetlands in the valley below. Here is another good place to see the Northern Shrike in fall and winter. Yellow-breasted Chats have probably nested in the shrubs in this area. The path then drops into a small valley and winds north until you see a rusting farm implement for disking the soil. Here the path splits and runs east and west. Listen for Willow Flycatchers in the shrubs and more grassland birds in the fields during spring and summer.

The central trail will take you from the parking lot to the north end without having to enter a woodland area and will provide the opportunity for viewing numbers of species, many not mentioned above. In spring, watch for migrating Sandhill Cranes. More than 800 Sandhills were seen in several groups one year. In summer look and listen for Indigo Bunting, Eastern Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, and Eastern Kingbird. Winter brings the American Tree Sparrow, Cedar Waxwings, and sometimes Snow Bunting. Year-round, you'll find Red-tailed and Cooper's Hawks.

Bring a spotting scope if you have one and expect to spend over an hour doing a slow walk in each direetion.

Bobolinks nest at Paul Douglas Forest Preserve. This male was photographed by Kanae Hirabayashi in Lake Forest in May 2002.

Don't forget to bring water and wear a brimmed hat for the sun because there is nothing to provide shade.

The Paul Douglas Forest Preserve is in Hoffman Estates and is bordered by Algonquin Road on the north, Ela Road on the east, Freeman Road on the west and Central Road to the south. Park at the entrance off Central Road where you will see a large open soccer area and parking lot. The preserve is open daily between 8 a.m. and sunset.

There are no marked trails, no sources of drinking water, and no toilet facilities except for outhouses near the soccer fields. A few picnic tables are available.

Stan Stec is the bird monitor at the Paul Douglas Forest Preserve for the Bird Conservation Network. He can be reached at 1307 N. Yale, Arlington Heights, IL. 60004; stanstec@msn.com

Field Notes

Prairie Falcon drawing by Eric Secker

2002/2003 Winter Season

by Kelly J. McKay

Editor's note: This summary incorporates changes in species sequencing and in English names as adopted by the American Ornithologists' Union (A.O.U.) in its 44th Supplement to the A.O.U. *Check-list of North American Birds*, published in *The Auk* 120.3 (issued 7 Aug 2003). In particular, waterfowl (geese, swans, and ducks; order Anseriformes) and "upland game birds" (pheasants, grouse, turkeys, quails; order Galliformes) are moved to the head of the linear sequence, before loons. One English name has been changed; viz., "Rock Dove" becomes "Rock Pigeon." The Supplement revised the scientific names of a few additional species recorded from Illinois, but no other changes in sequencing or in English names of species confirmed for the state are proposed in the Supplement.

The winter season of 2002-2003 was characterized by alternate periods of normal to above-normal and normal to below-normal temperatures. Overall, the northern 2/3 of Illinois experienced a very dry winter season. By contrast, the southern 1/3 of the state experienced periodic episodes of heavy precipitation throughout the winter, particularly in December and January. The total number of species encountered (170) was very similar to the total recorded last year (166).

During the early half of December, temperatures across the state were normal to slightly below normal. By comparison, the latter half of the month showed normal to slightly higher than normal temperatures. Little to no precipitation occurred in the northern 2/3 of the state, except for a major rainfall event which dropped 2-3 inches on 18 and 19 December. Additionally, 2-4 inches of lake-effect snow fell in the Chicago vicinity on 24 December. By contrast, two major winter storms moved across the southern portion of the state in early December. Each storm produced 6+ inches of snow. The warmer, latter half of the month had two additional storms each dropping 2-3+ inches of rain in the south, which caused flash flooding.

For the most part, above-normal temperatures continued through early January. By the latter half of the month, temperatures were average to well below. Precipitation events occurred periodically throughout various portions of Illinois. For example, on 1 January, 4-8 inches of snow fell across the southern 2/3 of the state. This was followed by a moderate rainfall event on 4 January across the northern 2/3 of Illinois. On 16 January, colder temperatures resulted in 1-2 inches of snow in the central and northeast regions. Lake effects produced 6-12 inches of snow locally in the Chicago area. By the end of the month, a couple of light snow events dropped 1-2 additional inches each across the state.

Average to slightly below-average temperatures characterized the early part of February. During the latter half of the month, temperatures ranged from normal to well above-normal to below-normal by the end of February. Minor snowfalls (< 1 inch) occurred in various portions of Illinois during the early half of the month. A major winter storm on 14 February produced 6-10 inches of snow over the northern 2/3 of Illinois, while slightly higher temperatures in the south resulted in 0.5-0.75 inches of ice. During the last half of the month, only a couple of minor snowfalls (1-2 inches each) fell in the southern 1/3 of the state, while the northern 2/3 experienced little or no precipitation.

The avian community reported in Illinois during the 2002-2003 winter season was exceptionally diverse. The majority of expected species, along with several lingering migrants and a diversity of "semi-hardy" birds were recorded. Most of the species typically encountered only in the southern region were also present this winter, however several of these occurred in very low numbers. Additionally, several uncommon and accidental species were documented within the state. Early spring migrants began appearing in February, especially during the latter part of the month.

Although overall diversity statewide was good, the relative abundance of various species groups ranged from less abundant to more numerous than usual. For example, virtually all waterbirds, waterfowl, and typical gull species were considerably less common throughout Illinois. Raptors, woodpeckers, and permanent residents (e.g., corvids, chickadees, titmice, and nuthatches) seemed to occur in somewhat typical numbers. In general, the less common "winter" gulls, "semi-hardy" species (i.e. wrens, kinglets, thrushes, and mimids), sparrows, and blackbirds were reported in greater abundance. "Winter finches" were almost totally absent. In fact, there were no reports of crossbills, redpolls,

Evening Grosbeak or Pine Siskin, although some were later reported on CBCs.

The species accounts below were submitted by 115 observers. Unfortunately, very few seasonal summaries were provided from the central section of the state.

The avian community during the 2002-2003 winter included records of nine species requiring review by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (IORC)—viz., Pacific Loon, Gyrfalcon, Prairie Falcon, California Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Rufous Hummingbird, Hermit Warbler, Painted Bunting, and Great-tailed Grackle. See the ninth IORC report in the preceding issue of *Meadowlark* for published acceptance of records for Pacific Loon, Gyrfalcon, Hermit Warbler, and Painted Bunting. Many additional species meriting documentation were also observed within the state. Some of the more interesting species include: Harlequin Duck, Solitary Sandpiper, Dunlin, Barn Swallow, House Wren, Swainson's Thrush, Gray Catbird, Orange-crowned Warbler, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Harris's Sparrow, Dickcissel, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. A well-studied (and photographed) Blue Grosbeak found at a feeder on 1 March had doubtless been present during the winter season. The only exotic/released species reported this winter were Trumpeter Swan and Ringed Turtle-Dove.

WATERFOWL TO NEW WORLD VULTURES. The winter of 2002-2003 showed a large diversity of waterfowl and other waterbirds throughout Illinois. However, with a few exceptions, most of these species appeared to be substantially less abundant this winter. Wintering waterfowl included **4 species of geese, 3 swans, 8 "puddle ducks," and 16 "diving ducks"**. In general, most of these species were relatively less abundant. Greater White-fronted, Ross's, and Canada Geese were all considerably less numerous, while the Snow Goose was still fairly abundant at traditional southern and central wintering locations. Noteworthy **Snow Goose concentrations included 300,000 and 100,000** at Carlyle Lake, **50,000** at Rend Lake, and **14,000** at Lake Springfield. Overall, "puddle ducks" were considerably less abundant throughout Illinois. However, fairly large numbers of Mallards were reported at the typical southern and central wintering sites. For instance, **50,000 Mallards** were encountered at Carlyle Lake, **30,178** were reported at Chautauqua, and **14,300** were present at Rend Lake. Similarly, "diving ducks" were, for the most part, less abundant throughout the state. Exceptions included more Canvasbacks present in the south, and fairly normal numbers of Greater Scaup, Long-tailed Ducks, and Hooded Mergansers statewide. **Two Harlequin Ducks** were observed on Lake Michigan. Overall, **no exceptionally large concentrations of "diving ducks" were encountered**.

Among the upland gamebirds, the Wild Turkey was more abundant throughout the state, as was the Northern Bobwhite in the south. By contrast, Ring-necked Pheasant populations remained very low and **Gray Partridge was completely absent**.

A single **Pacific Loon** was present at Rend Lake, while a **Red-throated Loon** was observed at Chicago's Grant Park. Considerably fewer Common Loons, Pied-billed, Horned, and Red-necked Grebes, American White Pelicans, and Double-crested Cormorants overwintered. Among these species, there were no notable concentrations. The Great Blue Heron was relatively abundant and widespread throughout the state, and the two vultures were also more numerous, but restricted almost exclusively to the southern region. Noteworthy concentrations included: **174 Great Blue Herons** at Chautauqua, and **105 Black Vultures** along with **85 Turkey Vultures** in Massac County. As usual very few Great Egrets or Black-crowned Night-Herons were reported this season.

DIRUNAL RAPTORS TO GULLS. During this past winter, **14 species of diurnal raptors were reported**. Generally, these **raptors were present in fairly typical numbers**. The colder winter, with more ice on the major rivers, resulted in slightly higher numbers of Bald Eagles. Red-shouldered Hawks were also slightly more numerous, while Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawks, along with Merlins, were somewhat less common. **Three Northern Goshawks** were observed (2 in the north and **1 in the south**), and **2 Golden Eagles** were recorded (both in the south). The most extraordinary raptors this winter were a **Gyrfalcon** in La Salle County and reports (pending IORC review) of **2 Prairie Falcons**.

Both the American Coot and the Sandhill Crane were substantially less numerous this winter. This was undoubtedly the result of the more typical colder winter, and therefore their numbers were probably more normal for Illinois during this time of the year.

Five shorebird species were identified. Two exceptional shorebirds this winter were a **Solitary Sandpiper** in Lee County and a **Dunlin** at Carlyle Lake.

The 2002-2003 winter produced **11 species of gulls**. Bonaparte's and Ring-billed Gulls were less abundant in the northern 2/3 of Illinois, but still occurred in large numbers in the south. Herring Gulls were relatively scarce throughout Illinois. The typical "winter gull" community appeared to be more numerous this season. Several noteworthy concentrations were reported in the north. Starved Rock State Park hosted **36 Thayer's, 11 Iceland, 6 Lesser Black-backed**, and **4 Glaucous Gulls**. The Lake Calumet area produced **8 Thayer's, 5 Iceland, 5 Lesser Black-backed, 4 Glaucous**, and **12 Great Black-backed Gulls**. The southern Illinois gull highlight was a **Black-legged Kittiwake** at Carlyle Lake. Two exceptional gull accounts included an adult **California Gull** at Lake Calumet, and a **Glaucous-winged Gull** at Starved Rock.

PIGEONS TO KINGLETS. The Eurasian Collared-Dove and the Monk Parakeet, where established, seemed to be increasing and were more widespread. Mourning Doves were substantially more abundant this year, although this species, along with the Rock Pigeon, is most likely largely under-reported across the state. Although somewhat more numerous this year, the Eastern Screech, Great Horned, and Barred Owls are also undoubtedly under-reported. Long-eared and Short-eared Owls were considerably less common this winter, with Short-eared Owls being found only in the south. Only one **Snowy Owl** and **4 Northern Saw-whet Owls** were recorded.

A **Rufous Hummingbird** was present through the early winter in Kane County. The Belted Kingfisher and woodpecker species appeared to be more numerous this winter. However, permanent resident woodpeckers (Red-bellied, Downy, and Hairy) were probably greatly under-reported statewide. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers seemed to be more numerous and widely distributed. Notable concentrations of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were observed at Oakwood Bottoms in Jackson County and at the Union County Conservation Area.

The Red-breasted Nuthatch was extremely scarce in all regions of Illinois. However, the Brown Creeper and both kinglets oecurred in substantially greater numbers. Impressive groups of **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were found in Jackson and Pulaski Counties. A remarkable **5 species of wrens** were observed this winter. Both Carolina and Winter Wrens were relatively abundant and widespread. **Two Marsh Wrens** were detected in the south, along with

a **single Sedge Wren**. **One House Wren** occurred in the north (Rock Island County). **Two Barn Swallows** were observed on 20 December in Union County.

Overall, the "common" permanent resident passerines (Blue Jay, Ameriean Crow, both chickadees, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, European Starling, Northern Cardinal, House Finch, and House and Eurasian Tree Sparrows) occurred in typical to somewhat more abundant numbers. Nevertheless, I continue to suggest that these species are substantially, if not greatly, overlooked and under-reported throughout Illinois during all seasons of the year.

THRUSHES TO NEOTROPICAL BUNTINGS. During the 2002-2003 winter season, the Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, and Northern Mockingbird were somewhat more numerous and widespread, particularly in the southern region. However, the only notable concentration was **18 Northern Mockingbirds** in Marion County. The American Robin and Cedar Waxwing were considerably less abundant, while the Brown Thrasher and American Pipit were typically scarce and largely restricted to the southern section of the state. Two exceptional species from northern Illinois included a **Swainson's Thrush** in Chicago's Jackson Park in December and single **Gray Catbirds** from Winnebago and Cook Counties.

Six warbler species were identified. The Yellow-rumped Warbler was less numerous, but still widely distributed state-wide. Other noteworthy warblers included a January **Orange- crowned Warbler** at Horseshoe Lake (Madison Co), **3 Pine Warblers** (1 in the north and 2 in the south), a **Palm Warbler** in McLean County, and a **Common Yellowthroat** in Massac County. Thc extraordinary highlight of the warbler community was a first confirmed state record of **HERMIT WARBLER.**

The **16 recorded sparrow species** (towhees through Snow Bunting) **were relatively more abundant** this winter. Notable concentrations included up to **9 Eastern Towhees**, counts of **65** & **33 Field Sparrows**, **124 Swamp Sparrows**, and **384** & **254 White-throated Sparrows**. **Two Vesper, 3 Le Conte's, and 1 Lincoln's Sparrow** were encountered in the south. The Savannah Sparrow was more numerous this year, but was also confined almost completely to the southern region. **Three Harris's Sparrows** were recorded this winter. Dark-eyed Juncos and Lapland Longspurs tended to be more abundant and widespread. The most noteworthy sparrow concentration was **3,000 Lapland Longspurs** in Lawrence County.

Exceptional species accounts included a **Blue Grosbeak** in Cook County reported on 1 March a **Dickcissel** in LaSalle County, and a **male Painted Bunting** in Jasper County.

BLACKBIRDS TO WEAVER FINCHES. A total of **9 species of blackbirds** were recorded this season. In general, these species were more numerous with relatively large numbers typically occurring in the south. For example, **102,790, 63,630, 15,000,** and **10,000 Red-winged Blackbirds** were observed at Rend Lake, Pulaski County, Starved Rock State Park, and St. Clair County, respectively. Union County Conservation Area and Crab Orchard produced **90** and **57 Eastern Meadowlarks**, respectively. The largest concentrations of blackbirds involved **Common Grackles, with an incredible 900,000 observed at Horseshoe Lake** and **518,500 at Rend Lake**. Rusty and Brewer's Blackbirds were substantially less abundant this winter. Only **3 Western Meadowlarks** were reported in the state. The highlight among blackbirds was **4 Yellow-headed Blackbirds**, including one in the north.

Although slightly more abundant, the American Goldfinch was probably still under-reported. The Purple Finch, which was considerably less numerous this season, was the only "winter finch" noted. **Red and White-winged Crossbills, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak all went unreported in Illinois** during the 2002-2003 winter. Pine Siskins were only reported on CBCs.

Acknowledgments

The foundation of this summary is the detailed information regarding avian wintering populations as submitted directly to the compiler by field observers throughout the state. Maximum counts are provided, where available, from each of the three regions of Illinois (north, central, and south) as mapped out in Bohlen's (1978) *Annotated Check-list of the Birds of Illinois*. Additional data reflecting the progress of the season are noted, when available, for species and areas of special interest.

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Greater White-fronted Goose

MC: 6000, UCCA, 25 Jan (KAM); 1500, Carl.L, 9 Feb (DK); 750, LSpfld, 13 Feb (DFS); 158, Chau, 19 Dec (R&SBj). **Others:** 178, OakwdBtms, 1 Jan (KJM, VL); 73, Rend L, 3 Jan (FB); 60, Pomona (Jackson Co), 4 Feb (RSR); 40, Jasper Co, 12 Feb (LH, BS); 30, CrabOr., 5 Jan (FB); 27, Chau, 8 Jan (LLH); 4, Lee Co, 5 Jan (KJM, SBH, BC); 3, Rock Island Co, 15 Dec (JR, RRd); 3, East Fork L (Richland Co), 15 Jan (LH, BS). Far fewer reports this winter and lower numbers, especially in the north and central regions.

Snow Goose

MC: **100,000**, Carl.L, 9-18 Feb (DK, KAM); **100,000**, Carl.L, 12 Jan (DK); **14,000**, LSpfld, 13 Feb (DFS). **Others:** **50,000**, Rend L, 14 Dec (KAM, CL); 4000, Pomona (Jackson Co), 6 Jan (RSR); 1475, CrabOr., 14 Dec (RSR, LW, JM); 550, Grassy Slough (Johnson Co), 19 Jan (FB); 300, HLCA, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 221, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 6, Rkfd, 15 Dec (DTW); 3, Knox Co, 12 Jan (DJM); 2 (white morph), Kaneville (Kane Co), 9 Jan (DJS); 2, La Salle L (La Salle Co), 18 Jan (LLH); white morph, Libertyville (Lake Co), 1 Dec (AS); Rock Island Co, 26 Dec (JDS); Vmln Co, 4 Jan (KJM, MW). Largely restricted to southern Illinois.

Ross's Goose

MC: 6, Rend L, 14 Dec (KAM, CL); 4, Carl.L, 17 Dec (DK); 4, LSpfld, 13 Feb (DFS). **Others:** 2, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); Bald.L, 3 Feb (KAM). Much less numerous this winter.

Canada Goose

MC: 9000, Kane Co, 7 Dec (DFS); 7850, UCCA, 16 Dec (KAM); 2835, Chau, 19 Dec (R&SBj); 2510, Rock Island Co, 15 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 2348, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (JOS, ES); 388, Vmln Co, 4 Jan (KJM, MW). **Others:** 1750, JP, 6 Feb (KC); 1500, Lake Co, 7 Feb (PS); 1163, Whiteside & Lee Cos, 5 Jan (CK, m.ob.); 1090, Ogle Co, 21 Dec (EW, KW, TB); 1000, Rend L, 14 Dec (KAM, CL); 687, Hoffman Estates (Cook Co), 16 Dec (AA); 602, Rock Island Co, 26 Dec (KJM, JDS, TM); 500, Lake Forest (Lake Co), 28 Dec (EW, WS); 200, Carl.L, 1 Jan (DK). Very low numbers overall, but note the lack of aerial waterfowl survey data.

Mute Swan

MC: **145**, Wolf L, LCal., 7 Feb (CM); **109**, Wolf L, LCal., 3 Jan (DFS). **Others:** 63, Widewaters (Will Co), 26 Dec (MBC); 6, JP, 10 Dec (PC); 5 (4 ad., 1 imm.), GrtLakes, 1 Jan (PS); 2, Des Plaines (Cook Co), 1 Dec-25 Jan (AA); 2, Barrington Hills (Cook Co), 16 Dec (AA); Carroll Co, 18 Dec (EA, DW); imm., Rkfd, 19 Feb (DTW). Restricted almost exclusively to northeastern Illinois.

Tundra Swan

MC: 28-34, Chau, 19 Dec-16 Jan (R&SBj); 9, East Fork L (Richland Co), 5 Dec (LH, BS); 8, Thomson Causeway (Carroll Co), 18 Dec (KJM). **Others:** 3 (2 ad., 1 imm.), Rkfd, 12 Jan (DTW); imm., Mermet L, 20 Dec-28 Feb (FB, KAM, DK). Much less common this winter.

Wood Duck

MC: 11, Mermet L, 31 Dec (FB). **Others:** 3, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 3, Kane Co, 18 Jan (AS); 2, Rock Island Co, 15 Dec (KJM); 2, North Point Marina (Lake Co), 22 Feb (PS); 2, Carl.L, 23 Feb (DK); male, LtlCal.R, 28 Dec (WM); female, North Point Marina (Lake Co), 12 Jan (PS); St. Charles (Kane Co), 14 Jan (DJS); Madison Co, 26 Jan (FH). Much less numerous throughout the state.

The following abbreviations have been used throughout this report:

<	=	reported as fall departure	ad.	=	adult	FP	=	Forest Preserve
>	=	reported as spring arrival	imm.	=	immature	L	=	Lake
*	=	documented record	pr.	=	pair	L&D	=	Lock and Dam
MC	=	maximum count(s)	1st	=	first winter plumage	P	=	Park
m.ob.	=	many observers	2nd	=	second winter plumage	R	=	River
IORC	=	Illinois Ornithological Records Committee	3rd	=	third winter plumage	Rd	=	Road
			Co(s)	=	County (Counties)	SP	=	State Park

Observation Locations:

Bald.L	=	Baldwin Lake (St. Clair & Randolph Cos)	LtlCal.R	=	Little Calumet River (Cook Co)
Carl.L	=	Carlyle Lake (Clinton & Fayette Cos)	LVmln	=	Lake Vermilion (Vermilion Co)
Chau	=	Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge (Mason Co)	M.Arb.	=	Morton Arboretum (Du Page Co)
			Mermet L	=	Mermet Lake Conservation Area (Massac Co)
Chi	=	Chicago and vicinity (Cook Co)	MidFkVmln	=	Middle Fork Fish and Wildlife Area (Vermilion Co)
CrabOr.	=	Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge (Williamson Co)	Miss.R	=	Mississippi River (various counties)
			MTwain	=	Mark Twain National Wildlife Reguge (Mercer Co)
Green R	=	Green River Conservation Area (Lee Co)	OakwdBtms	=	Oakwood Bottoms (Jackson Co)
GrtLakes	=	Great Lakes Naval Training Center (Lake Co)	Rend L	=	Rend Lake (Franklin & Jefferson Cos)
			Rkfd	=	Rockford and vicinity (Winnebago Co)
HL	=	Horseshoe Lake (Madison Co)	SRock	=	Starved Rock State Park (La Salle Co)
HLCA	=	Horseshoe Lake Conservation Area (Alexander Co)	UCCA	=	Union County Conservation Area (Union Co)
IBSP	=	Illinois Beach State Park (Lake Co)	Vmln Co	=	Vermilion Co
JP	=	Chicago's Jackson Park (Cook Co)	Wauk.	=	Waukegan and vicinity (Lake Co)
LCal.	=	Lake Calumet and vicinity (Cook Co)			
LSpfld	=	Lake Springfield (Sangamon Co)			

When information on counts greater than one individual, sexes, and/or ages of observed birds is available, it is included at the head of the observation account. This information is followed by the location of the observation, date(s) of observation, and the observer(s) who made the report. Noteworthy dates of occurrence and remarkably high counts for the state as a whole, or for particular regions of the state, are underlined and boldfaced. Speeies of extremely unusual occurrence in Illinois during the winter appear in CAPITALIZED, BOLDFACED fonts. Headings for species requiring review by the IORC appear in CAPITALIZED, UNDERLINED, AND BOLDFACED fonts. Documented records pending IORC review are enclosed in square brackets [ ].

Gadwall

MC: 665, HL, 31 Jan (KAM); 307, HLCA, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 246, Chau, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM); 108, Des Plaines Conservation Area (Will Co), 22 Feb (DJS); 40, Lockport (Will Co), 18 Jan (CA). **Others:** 160, Mermet L, 25 Jan (KAM); 116, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 50, Rend L, 29 Dec (DK); 16, Quiver Creek (Mason Co), 12 Jan (LLH); 15, Shabbona L SP (De Kalb Co), 21 Dec (DJS); 10, L&D#13 (Whiteside Co), 18 Dec (KJM); 6, Marissa (St. Clair Co), 1 Jan (DK); 4 (2 pr.), JP, 21 Feb (PC, KC); 3, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe (Cook Co), all winter (EW, m.ob.); 2, Calumet P, LCal., 19 Jan (CM); 2, Wauk., 1 Feb (PS). Somewhat less numerous this winter.

American Wigeon

MC: 25, Pulaski Co, 22 Feb (KAM, DK, FB); 14, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF). **Others:** 11, Mermet L, 31 Dec (FB); 4, Rend L, 14 Dec (KAM, CL); 3, Channahon (Will Co), 1 Jan (DFS); 2, Chau, 19 Dec (R&SBj); 2 (pr.), Du Page Co, 25 Dec (R&KF); 2 (pr.), North Point Marina (Lake Co), 25 Jan (PS); HL, 2 Feb> (FH); Carl.L, 8 Feb (DK). Substantially lower numbers this winter.

American Black Duck

MC: 110, Rend L, 14 Dec (KAM, CL); 108, Chau, 1 Jan (R&SBj); 100, Carroll Co, 18 Dec (EA, DW); 100, Carl.L, 8-9 Feb (DK); 27, Rkfd, 15 Dec (DTW). **Others:** 20, La Salle Co Wildlife Area (La Salle Co), 11 Jan (MBC); 16, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 12, Shabbona L SP (De Kalb Co), 21 Dec (DJS); 10, Davenport (Rock Island Co), 15 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 8, HLCA, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 6, Wolf L, LCal., 21 Feb (CM); 5, Chi, 7 Dec (AA); 4, Evanston (Cook Co), all winter (EW); 4, Wauk., 11 Dec (KAM); 2, Mermet L, 31 Dec (FB); 2, LVmln, 4 Jan (KJM, MW); Spoon L (Knox Co), 12 Dec (DJM). Occurred in fairly normal numbers.

Mallard

MC: **50,000**, Carl.L, 17 Dec (DK); **30,178**, Chau, 19 Dec (R&SBj); **14,300**, Rend L, 14 Dec (KAM, CL); 6478, Clear L (Mason Co), 1 Jan (R&SBj); 5000, La Salle Co, 26 Jan (GW); 1401, Carroll Co, 18 Dec (EA, DW). **Others:** **10,000**, Carl.L, 12 Jan (DK); 3000, UCCA, 25 Jan (KAM); 1092, Rock Island Co, 15 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 576, Whiteside & Lee Cos, 5 Jan (J&SB); 512, HLCA, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 202, LVmln, 4 Jan (KJM, MW). Considerably fewer birds were encountered, especially in traditional central and southern concentration sites. Undoubtedly, the lack of aerial waterfowl survey data helps explain the lower counts.

Northern Shoveler

MC: 37, Clear L (Mason Co), 6 Feb (R&SBj); 31, HLCA, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 18, Chau, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM). **Others:** 12, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 12, HL, 29 Jan (KAM); 10, Carl.L, 29 Dec (DK); 6, Mermet L, 31 Dec (FB); 3, L&D#13 (Whiteside Co), 18 Dec (KJM); male, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe (Cook Co), all winter (EW, m.ob.); Chi, 5 Feb (AA). Occurred in greatly reduced numbers this winter.

Northern Pintail

MC: 1500, Carl.L, 9 Feb (DK); 500, Johnson Co, 22 Feb (KAM, FB, DK). **Others:** 150, HL, 18 Feb (FH); 65, Rend L, 3 Jan (FB); 31, HLCA, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 6, Chau, 8 Jan (LLH); 5, CrabOr., 29 Dec (UG); 4, Chau, 27 Feb (R&SBj); 2, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 2, Rock Island Co, 26 Dec (KJM). Greatly reduced numbers, especially in traditional central and southern locations.

Green-winged Teal

MC: 215, HL, 15 Dec< (FH); 100, HLCA, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 100, Johnson Co, 22 Feb (KAM, DK, FB). **Others:** 32, Rend L, 14 Dec (KAM, CL); 12, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 7, Mermet L, 31 Dec (FB); 6, Carl.L, 8 Feb (DK); 3, Hidden L FP (Du Page Co), 23 Dec (UG); 3, Kendall Co, 29 Dec (DFS); 2, CrabOr., 29 Dec (UG); 2, Ottawa (La Salle Co), 8 Feb (DJS); male, M.Arb., all winter (EW, m.ob.); male, Barstow (Rock Island Co), 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, BC); male, Chau, 8 Jan (LLH). Considerably fewer individuals overwintered.

Canvasback

MC: **5000**, Rend L, 28 Feb (LdS); **4000**, Carl.L, 9 Feb (DK); 3000, Carl.L, 12 Jan (DK); 59, Chau, 27 Feb (R&SBj). **Others:** 750, HL, 23 Feb (FH); 500, Jersey Co, 16 Feb (KAM); 200, Rend L, 14 Dec (DK); 30, LSpfld, 13 Feb (DFS); 21, Mermet L, 31 Dec (FB); 8, L&D#14 (Rock Island Co), 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, BC); 2, JP, 25 Dec (KJM, JG, m.ob.); 2 males, Calumet P, LCal., 9 Feb (CM); 2, Ottawa (La Salle Co), 9 Feb (DJS); 2 males, North Point Marina (Lake Co), 21-22 Feb (PS). More numerous in the south and far less common in the northern and central regions.

Redhead

MC: 73, Evanston (Cook Co), 28 Dec (EW, WS); 38 (30 male, 8 female), North Point Marina (Lake Co), 20 Feb (PS). **Others:** 16 (11 male, 5 female), JP, 20 Feb (EW); 15, Wolf L, LCal., 27 Feb (CM); 6, Mermet L, 6 Jan (FB); 2 males, Seneca (La Salle Co), 27 Jan (DJS); 2, HL, 31 Jan (KAM); 2 males, Jasper Co, 13 Feb> (LH, BS); L&D#13 (Whiteside Co), 18 Dec (KJM); male, Carl.L, 2 Jan (DK); Rend L, 20 Jan (DK). Found in lower numbers, especially in the north.

Ring-necked Duck

MC: 1200, HL, 31 Jan (KAM); 802, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 187, Mason Co, 6 Feb (R&SBj); 29, LtlCal.R, 28 Dec (WM, SH). **Others:** 700, Mermet L, 25 Jan (KAM); 500, Carl.L, 23 Feb (DK); 3, Chi, 25 Dec (KJM); 2, Batavia (Kane Co), 23 Feb (UG); female, GrtLakes, 1 Jan (PS); Ottawa (La Salle Co), 8 Feb (DJS). Somewhat less numerous and far less distributed throughout the state.

Greater Scaup

MC: **2000**, Winthrop Harbor (Lake Co), 29 Dec (KAM); 890, Highland P (Lake Co), 28 Dec (EW, WS). **Others:** 510, Wilmette (Cook Co), 28 Dec (EW, WS); 125, LCal., 25 Jan (EW); 10, Carl.L, 21 Dec & 12 Jan (DK); 6, Rend L, 25 Jan (KAM); 4, East Fork L (Richland Co), 22 Dec (LH, BS); 3, Mermet L, 6-19 Jan (FB); HL, 3 Feb> (FH). Nearly normal numbers, and more widely distributed in the southern region.

Lesser Scaup

MC: 600, Mermet L, 31 Dec (KJM); 500, Rend L, 14 Dec (DK); 500, Carl.L, 21 Dec (DK); 300, LtlCal.R, 1 Feb (WM); 209, Chau, 27 Feb (R&SBj); 142, L&D#14 (Rock Island Co), 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, BC). **Others:** 150, Alton (Madison Co), 29 Jan (KAM); 26, L&D#13 (Whiteside Co), 18 Dec (KJM); 26, Chau, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM); 15, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 14 (9 male, 5 female), JP, 21 Feb> (PC, KC); 4, LVmln, 4 Jan (KJM, MW). Considerably less numerous this winter.

HARLEQUIN DUCK

female, Wauk., 7-8 Dec (PS); female, Chi, 25 & 28 Feb (AA, JL).

Surf Scoter

MC: 13, Rend L, 18 Dec, 3 & 5 Jan (LdS, DK, FB). **Others:** 4 (1 male, 3 female), IBSP, 21 Dec (PS); 3 imm., JP, 28 Feb (DTW); 2, Spoon L (Knox Co), 18 Dec (DJM); 2, Carl.L, 26 Dec (DK); imm., Jasper Co, 27 Dec (LH, BS).

White-winged Scoter

MC: 8, Evanston (Cook Co), 22 Feb (AA, m.ob.). **Others:** 3, IBSP, 1 Jan (GW); ad. male, Mermet L, "bird was apparently shot and checked in later that day", 31 Dec (FB).

Black Scoter

3, Rend L, 14 Dec (DK); female, Grant P, Chi, 5 Dec (DFS); Wilmette (Cook Co), 10 Jan (EW); female, Wauk., 20-25 Jan (PS). Fewer than normal encountered.

Long-tailed Duck

MC: 18, Wauk., 1 Feb (PS); 11, Wauk., 11 Dec (KAM). **Others:** 7, Highland P (Lake Co), 28 Dec (EW, WS); 3 (1 male, 2 female), Rend L, 18 Dec, 5 & 8 Jan (LdS, DK, KAM); Wilmette (Cook Co), 28 Dec (WS, EW); male, Carl.L, 26 Jan (DK); male, East Fork L (Richland Co), 23-28 Feb (LH, BS). Fairly typical numbers, but more widespread in the south.

Bufflehead

MC: 42, Rend L, 14 Dec (DK); 31, Chi, 25 Dec (KJM, JG, m.ob.); 26, Wauk., 11 Dec (KAM); 7, Chau, 5 Dec (R&SBj). **Others:** 16, Butterworth P (Rock Island Co), 15 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 13, JP, 26 Feb (AA); 5, Rock Island Co, 26 Dec (KJM); 4, Cordova (Rock Island Co), 23 Dec (RN, AM); 2, Mermet L, 31 Dec (FB); 2, Calumet P, LCal., 19 Jan (CM); 2, Carl.L, 8 Feb (DK); 2, Illini SP (La Salle Co), 17 Feb (DJS); female, Spoon L (Knox Co), 1 Dec (DJM); Shabbona L SP (De Kalb Co), 3 Jan (DJS); Madison Co, 13 Jan (FH). Relatively smaller and more dispersed concentrations.

Common Goldeneye

MC: 3500, Rend L, 8 Jan (KAM); 3000, Carl.L, 12 Jan (DK); 300, Chi, 25 Dec (KJM, JG, m.ob.); 250, Seneca (La Salle Co), 27 Jan (DJS); 91, Chau, 5 Dec (R&SBj). **Others:** 220, Chi, 19 Jan (AA); 176, Butterworth P (Rock Island Co), 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, BC); 163, Highland P (Lake Co), 28 Dec (EW, WS, m.ob.); 147, Cordova (Rock Island Co), 23 Dec (KJM, RN, AM); 100, JP, 27 Jan (KC); 60, Fox R (Kane Co), 23 Feb (UG); 50, L&D#13 (Whiteside Co), 18 Dec (KJM); 16, Rock R (Ogle Co), 21 Dec (EW, KW, TB); 12, Chau, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM); 6, Spoon L (Knox Co), 12 Dec (DJM); 6, Mermet L, 31 Dec (FB); male, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); HL, 2 Feb (FH). Somewhat less abundant, particularly along the Mississippi River.

Hooded Merganser

Female Hooded Merganser, Evanston, Cook County. 29 December 2002. Photo by Eric Walters.

MC: 97, HL, 15 Jan (JZ); 50, Chau, 19 Dec (R&SBj); 36, Rend L, 25 Jan (KAM); 32, Carl.L, 17 Dec (KAM, m.ob.); 35, Riverdale (Cook Co), 21 Dec (WM); 11, GrtLakes, 1 Jan (PS). **Others:** 8, Evanston (Cook Co), 1 Dec-3 Jan (EW, m.ob.); 6, Mermet L, 31 Dec (FB); 4 (1 male, 3 female), JP, 22 Dec (PC); 3, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 3, Rkfd, 28 Dec (DTW); 2 males, Channahon (Will Co), 26 Jan (UG); 2 females, Seneca (La Salle Co), 27 Jan (DJS); male, Spoon L (Knox Co), 1 Dec (DJM); Carroll Co, 18 Dec (EA, DW). Relatively normal numbers.

Common Merganser

MC: 1670, Putnam Co, 15 Dec (DJS); 920, Chi, 20 Jan (DFS); 894, Chau, 27 Feb (R&SBj); 865, Heidecke L (Grundy Co), 1 Jan (DFS); 735, L&D#13 (Whiteside Co), 18 Dec (KJM); 500, Carl.L, 2 Feb (DK); 350, Rend L, 25 Jan (KAM). **Others:** 150, HL, 19 Jan< (FH); 150, JP, 2 Feb (KC); 102, Chi, 25 Dec (GW); 77, LCal., 28 Dec (WM, SH); 75, CrabOr., 5 Jan (FB); 17, Rkfd, 1 Jan (DTW); 12, Chau, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM); 12, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (KJM, SBH); 12, Evanston (Cook Co), 22 Feb (AA); 5, Fox R (Kane Co), 23 Feb (UG). Once again, considerably lower numbers of individuals, especially in the north.

Red-breasted Merganser

MC: 790, Chi, 25 Dec (KJM, JG, m.ob.). **Others:** 60, Evanston (Cook Co), 22 Feb (AA); 22, Calumet P, LCal., 28 Jan (CM); 16, Rend L, 3 Jan (FB); 15, Wauk., 1 Feb (PS); 5, Carl.L, 1 Jan (DK); 3, Wauk., 11 Dec< (KAM); 2 (pr.), Cordova (Rock Island Co), 23 Dec (KJM); 2 males, SRock, 19 Jan (DJS); L&D#13 (Whiteside Co), 18 Dec (KJM). Particularly less abundant in the central and southern sections of the state.

Ruddy Duck

MC: 375, Chau, 5 Dec (R&SBj); 350, HL, 19 Jan (FH); 300, Carl.L, 12 Jan (DK); 50, Chau, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM). **Others:** 6, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 5, Rend L, 14 Dec (DK); 3, Mermet L, 31 Dec (FB); female, Wauk., 22 Dec (PS); JP, 25 Dec (KJM, JG, m.ob.); female, North Point Marina (Lake Co), 20-22 Feb (PS). Far less numerous throughout Illinois this winter, especially in traditional central and southern waterfowl coneentration sites.

Ring-necked Pheasant

MC: 12, Mason Co, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM). **Others:** 4, Green R, 5 Jan (KJM, SBH, BC). This species' population remains extremely low throughout Illinois.

Wild Turkey

MC: 204, Winnebago Co, 14 Dec (DTW); 100, La Salle Co, 26 Jan (UG); 57, Mermet L, 31 Dec (FB); 50, MidFkVmln, 4 Jan (KJM, MW); 33, HL, 21 Dec (FH); 15, Champaign Co, 4 & 12 Feb (JOS, ES). **Others:** 73, Wilmington (Will Co), 28 Dec (CA); 30, Rend L, 14 Dec (DK); 26, Boone Co, 12 Dec (AEB); 24, Cordova (Rock Island Co), 8 Feb (UG); 22, Marion Co, 28 Dec (RSR, m.ob.); 18, East Alton (Madison Co), 16 Feb (KAM); 16, OakwdBtms, 1 Jan (KJM, VL); 15, Carl.L, 9 Feb (DK); 14, Rock Island Co, 28 Dec (KAM); 6, Cook Co, 8 Feb (EW); 4, Herrick L FP (Du Page Co), 1 Jan (MBC). More abundant and widespread this winter.

Northern Bobwhite

MC: 20, Perry Co, 1 Jan (DK); 17, Marion Co, 28 Dec (RSR, m.ob.); 10, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (TM, WZ). **Others:** 15, Union Co, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 13, Alexander Co, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 13, Carl.L, 21 Dec (DK); 12, Johnson Co, 8 Dec (KAM); 11, Rend L, 14 Dec (KAM, CL). Remains scarce in the northern 2/3 of the state, but was much more numerous in the south.

RED-THROATED LOON

Grant P, Chi, 3 Dec (DFS).

PACIFIC LOON

imm., Rend L, 14 Dec (*DK). This species has been removed from the IORC review list.

Common Loon

MC: 5, Rend L, 14 Dec (DK). **Others:** 2, CrabOr., 5 Jan (FB); Chi, 1 Dec-10 Jan (DFS, KJM, JG, m.ob.); HL, 8 & 21 Dec< (FH); Carl.L, 15 Dec (DK). Relatively well represented.

Pied-billed Grebe

MC: 15, East Fork L (Richland Co), 29 Dec (LH, BS); 3, Rend L, 5 Jan (DK); 2, Grundy Co, 1 Jan (DFS); 2, Ottawa (La Salle Co), 19 Jan (DJS, CKM, JH). **Others:** 2, Mermet L, 31 Dec (FB); HL, 1 & 8 Dec< (FH); JP, 3 Dec< (PC); Lake Co, 11 Dec (AS); Carl.L, 15 & 17 Dec (DK, KAM, m.ob.); Rock Island Co, 26 Dec (JS, DF); CrabOr., 29 Dec (UG); LVmln, 4 Jan (KJM, MW); Bald.L, 3 Feb> (KAM); Wolf L, LCal., 21 & 27 Feb (CM). Less abundant this winter.

Horned Grebe

Ring-necked Pheasant. 21 February 2003. LaSalle County. Photo by Eric Walters.

MC: 7, Rend L, 14 Dec (DK); 6, Carl.L, 21 Dec (DK). **Others:** 4, Bald.L, 3 Feb (KAM); 3, East Fork L (Richland Co), 14 Feb (LH, BS); Wauk., 1 Dec (AS); Calumet P, LCal., 3 Jan (DFS). Considerably less common; restricted almost completely to the southern portion of the state.

RED-NECKED GREBE
Rend L, 3 Jan (FB).

American White Pelican
MC: 22, St. Clair Co, 21 Dec (FH). **Other:** Lisle (Du Page Co), 15 Dec (LLH). Far less common than in recent years, with only two reports submitted.

Double-crested Cormorant
MC: 17, Rend L, 14 Dec (DK); 14, Carl.L, 2 Jan (DK); 10, Butterworth P (Rock Island Co), 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, BC); 7, Chau, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM); 6, LtlCal.R, 21 Dec (WM). **Others:** 7, HL, 8 Jan (FH); 4, Wauk., 1 & 8 Dec (AS); 3, Joppa (Massac Co), 31 Dec (FB); 2, Wauk., 25 Jan (PS); SRock, 18 Jan (KW, EW); Grundy Co, 26 Jan (UG). Relatively few wintered this year.

Great Blue Heron
MC: 174, Chau, 1 Jan (R&SBj); 75, East Alton (Madison Co), 26 Jan (JZ); 60, HL, 26 Jan (FH); 25, New Boston (Mercer Co), 27 Dec (TM, WZ); 16, Putnam Co, 11 Dec (DFS); 16, Whiteside & Carroll Cos, 18 Dec (KJM, EA, DW). **Others:** 42, Rend L, 25 Jan (KAM); 19, OakwdBtms, 1 Jan (KJM, VL); 15, East Fork L (Richland Co), 14 Jan (LH, BS); 14, HLCA, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 12, Mermet L, 31 Dec (FB); 11, SRock, 11 Jan (EW, KW); 10, Carl.L, 23 Feb (DK); 9, Rock Island Co, 22 Dec (KJM, SF); 9, LtlCal.R, 28 Dec (WM, SH); 8, L&D#18 (Henderson Co), 23 Jan (DJM). Relatively abundant and widespread statewide.

Red-shouldered Hawk, Skokie, Cook County. 20 December 2002. Photo by Eric Walters.

Red-tailed Hawk, 21 February 2003. LaSalle County, Photo by Eric Walters.

GREAT EGRET
HL, 1 Dec (FH); East Fork L (Richland Co), 1 Dec< (LH, BS).

Black-crowned Night-Heron
HL, 1 Dec (FH); imm., Lawrence Co, 12 Dec (LH, BS); ad., Massac Co, 19 Dec (FB); imm., LtlCal.R, 1 Feb (WM).

Black Vulture
MC: 105, New Columbia (Massac Co), 3 Jan (FB); 31, Pope Co, 21 Dec (RSR, VL, DMn). **Others:** 16, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (RSR, DMn, JM); 8, Union Co, 2 Feb (FB); 2, Vienna (Johnson Co), 29 Dec (FB); Washington Co, 20 Jan (DK). Relatively more numerous this winter.

Turkey Vulture
MC: 85, New Columbia (Massac Co), 3 Jan (FB); 22, Union Co, 16 Dec (KAM). **Others:** 20, Madison Co, 30 Dec (FH); 12, Pope Co, 21 Dec (RSR, VL, DMn); 9, Clinton Co, 13 Feb (KAM); 4, Washington Co, 20 Jan (DK); 3, Carl.L, 21 Dec (DK); Edwards Co, 15 Dec (BS); Clark Co, 19 Dec (DFS); Lawrence Co, 5 Feb (LH, BS); Des Plaines (Cook Co), 22 Feb (CHs). More numerous this winter, but restricted almost exclusively to the southern section of Illinois.

Bald Eagle
MC: **589** (380 ad., 180 imm., 29 others), Miss.R L&D#13-16 (Whiteside & Rock Island Cos), 9-10 Jan (KJM); **253** (175 ad., 65 imm., 13 others), Miss.R Keithsburg to L&D#17 (Mercer Co), 11 Jan (KJM); **252** (151 ad., 98 imm., 3 others), Miss.R Warsaw to L&D#19 (Hancock Co), 11 Jan (KJM); **203** (142 ad., 50 imm., 11 others), Miss.R Burlington to L&D#18 (Henderson Co), 11 Jan (KJM); 112 (62 ad., 47 imm., 3 others), Miss.R Pool 13 (Whiteside, Carroll Cos), 18 Dec (KJM); 111, HL, 24 Jan (FH); 49, Levee Rd (Monroe Co), 26 Jan (JZ). **Others:** 74 (34 ad., 40 imm.), Chau, 9 Jan (R&SBj); 68, Putnam Co, 23 Feb (DJS); 42 (21 ad., 21 imm.), Madison & Jersey Cos, 29 Jan (KAM); 30, SRock, 18 Jan (UG); 16 (9 ad., 7 imm.), Winnebago Co, 14 Dec (DTW); 11 (8 ad., 3 imm.), Heidecke L (Grundy Co), 28 Dec (CA); 8 (3 ad., 5 imm.), UCCA, 16 Dec (KAM); 6, Carl.L, 12 Jan (DK); 5 (3 ad., 2 imm.), OakwdBtms, 1 Jan (KJM, VL); 1-5, L Charleston (Coles Co), all winter (LBH, RB, DMt); 2 (ad., imm.), East Fork L (Richland Co), 8 Dec (LH, BS); 2, HLCA, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 2 (ad., imm.), Mermet L, 31 Dec (FB). Slightly more abundant than last year.

Northern Harrier
MC: 15 (9 male, 6 others), Johnson & Pulaski Cos, 22 Feb (KAM, DK, FB); 7, HLCA, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 7, Jackson Co, 11 Jan (RSR, VL, m.ob.). **Others:** 4, Carl.L, 17 Dec (DK); 2, Springbrook Prairie FP (Du Page Co), 1 Dec (UG); 2, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 2, Nachusa Grassland SP (Lee Co), 21 Dec (KW, EW); 2, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (BB, m.ob.); 2 (male, female), La Salle Co, 7 Jan (CA); 2, Chau, 9 Jan (R&SBj). Fairly normal numbers.

Sharp-shinned Hawk
2, Du Page Co, 1-31 Dec (R&KF); 2, Rock Island Co, 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, BC); 2, Cook Co, 15 Dec (PS); 2, Mermet L, 31 Dec (KAM, DK); 2, Chau, 9 Jan (R&SBj); imm., Pomona (Jackson Co), 6 Dec (RSR); Carroll Co, 18 Dec (EA, DW); St. Clair Co, 20 & 27 Dec< (FH); Mercer Co, 27 Dec (KJM, SBH); Rend L, 1 Jan (DK); Carl.L, 2 Jan (DK); Whiteside Co, 5 Jan (J&SB); ad. male, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe (Cook Co), 10 Jan (EW); imm., Knox Co, 12 Jan (DJM); SRock, 20 Feb (EW). Relatively normal numbers.

Cooper's Hawk
MC: 4, Carl.L, 17 Dec (KAM, m.ob.); 4, Cook Co, 28 Dec (SP, m.ob.); 3, Max McGraw Wildlife Area (Kane Co), 16 Dec (LLH). **Others:** 2 (ad., imm.), Du Page Co, 1-31 Dec (R&KF); 2, Rend L, 14 Dec (DK); 2, Carroll Co, 18 Dec (EA, DW); 2, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (KJM, VL); 2, Whiteside Co, 5 Jan (J&SB); Will Co, 29 Dec (KJM); Wauk., 29 Dec (PS); Massac Co, 31 Dec (KJM); Vmln Co, 4 Jan (KJM, MW); ad., Knox Co, 8 Jan (DJM); Busse Woods FP (Cook Co), 8 Jan (AA); ad. female, SRock, 11 Jan-2 Feb (EW, KW, m.ob.); HL, 26 Jan (FH); imm., Bushnell (McDonough Co), 24 Feb (LLH); Lenzburg (St. Clair Co), 24 Feb (TUM). Occurred in typical numbers.

Northern Goshawk
imm., Rock Island Co, 22 Dec (*KJM, SF); **HL**, 26 Dec &1 Feb (JZ, FH); imm. female, Green R, 5 Jan (*KJM, SBH, BC).

Red-shouldered Hawk
MC: 12, OakwdBtms, 1 Jan (KJM, VL); 6, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF). **Others:** 3, Mermet L, 8 Feb (FB); 2, Pope Co, 21 Dec (FB); 2, Carl.L, 12 Jan (DK); 2 (pr. "mating"), Pomona (Jackson Co), 1 Feb (RSR); Wilmette (Cook Co), 1 Dec (RE); Rock Island Co, 15 Dec (KR, m.ob.); Rock Island Co, 26 Dec (JS, DF); ad., Lyons Woods FP (Lake Co), 8 Feb (PS); Mason Co, 27 Feb (LWs). Slightly more reported this season, especially in the south.

Red-tailed Hawk
MC: 31, Kane Co, 16 Dec (LLH); 30, Carl.L, 2 Feb (DK); 29, Rock Island Co, 26 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 25, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 15, McDonough & Fulton Cos, 14 Dec (LLH); 14, Rend L, 14 Dec (KAM, CL). **Others:** 22, Whiteside & Carroll Cos, 18 Dec (KJM, EA, DW); 21, Will Co, 29 Dec

(KJM); 18, Lee Co, 21 Dec (EW, KW, TB); 11, CrabOr., 14 Dec (RSR, LW, JM); 11, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 11, Mason Co, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM); 9, Cook Co, 16 Dec (AA); 9, Alexander Co, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 9, Marion Co, 28 Dec (RSR, m.ob.); 7, Vmln Co, 4 Jan (KJM, MW); imm. "Harlan's", Downs (McLean Co), 6 Dec-28 Feb (MR, JK, GH); "Harlan's", Greene Valley FP (Du Page Co), 7 Jan (MBC); dark morph, Levee Rd (Monroe Co), 21 Jan (JZ); dark morph, Clinton Co, 2 Feb (KAM); "Krider's", Wolf L, LCal., 13 Feb (CM). Somewhat less abundant this winter.

Rough-legged Hawk

MC: 3, La Salle Co, 9-31 Jan (R&KF); 2, Rkfd, 28 Dec (DTW). **Others:** Kendall Co, 4 Dec (DJS); light morph, Iroquois Co, 6 Dec (DFS); Bureau Co, 16 Dec (DJS); Carroll Co, 18 Dec (KJM); Arcola (Douglas Co), 28 Dec (UG); Clear L (Mason Co), 1 Jan (R&SBj); McLean Co, 11 Jan (KAM, m.ob.); Livingston Co, 11 Jan (KAM, m.ob.); El Paso (Woodford Co), 18 Jan (LLH); dark morph, Ogle Co, 24 Jan (DFS); De Kalb Co, 1 Feb (DJS); Rock Island Co, 8 Feb (JC); Des Plaines Conservation Area (Will Co), 20 Feb (JC); Grassy Slough (Johnson Co), 22 & 28 Feb (FB). Reduced numbers throughout Illinois.

Golden Eagle

imm., Joppa (Massac Co), 29 Dec (FB); imm., UCCA, 15 Feb (FB).

American Kestrel

MC: 16, La Salle Co, 8 Jan (DFS); 14, Rock Island Co, 26 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 14, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (BB, m.ob.); 14, Marion Co, 28 Dec (RSR, m.ob.); 13, Alexander Co, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 13, Levee Rd (Monroe Co), 27 Dec (JZ); 7, Vmln Co, 4 Jan (KJM, MW). **Others:** 12, Rock Island Co, 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, BC); 12, Carl.L, 1 Jan (DK); 11, Rock Island Co, 22 Dec (KJM, SF); 8, Will Co, 29 Dec (KJM); 7, Massac Co, 31 Dec (KJM); 5, Ogle Co, 21 Dec (EW, KW, TB); 5, Mason Co, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM); 4, Rend L, 14 Dec (DK). This species occurred in normal abundance.

Merlin

Whiteside Co, 28 Dec (DFS); Ogle Co, 24 Jan (DFS); ad. female or imm., HL, 26 Jan & 1 Feb (JZ, FH); ad. male (race ***richardsonii***), SRock, 16 Feb (MR, EES, GW); Wilmette (Cook Co), 22 Feb (AA, m.ob.). Far less frequent throughout Illinois this winter.

GYRFALCON

imm., dark morph, La Salle Co, 4-30 Jan (*CA, GW, KAM, DK, PS, m.ob.).

Peregrine Falcon

2 (pr.), Hyde P (Cook Co), all winter (PC); Evanston (Cook Co), all winter (EW); East St. Louis (St. Clair Co), 6 Dec & 21 Feb (KAM); ad., Humboldt P (Cook Co), 15 Dec (AA); ad., Rkfd, 26-28 Dec (DTW); ad., LCal., 28 Dec (WM, m.ob.); HL, 19 Jan (FH). Occurred in typical numbers.

[PRAIRIE FALCON

Levee Rd (Monroe Co), 15 Jan; La Salle L (La Salle Co), 19 & 25 Jan.]

American Coot

MC: 500, Mermet L, 31 Dec (FB, KAM, DK); 351, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (JOS, ES); 15, LtlCal.R, 1 Feb (WM); 12, LCal., 25 Jan (EW). **Others:** 100, Rend L, 3 Jan (FB); 6, Chi, 27 Feb (AA); 5, Carl.L, 2 Jan (DK); 4, Chi, 25 Dec (KJM, JG, m.ob.); 2, Wauk., 1 Dec-22 Feb (PS); 2, Chau, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM); 2, Ottawa (La Salle Co), 2 & 8 Feb (DJS); Rock Island Co, 15 Dec (TM); East Peoria (Tazewell Co), 18 Jan (LLH). Substantially less abundant this winter.

Sandhill Crane

MC: 30, Du Page Co, 15 Dec (R&KF); 29, M.Arb., 19 Dec (JC); 20, Jasper Co, 20 Dec (LH). **Others:** Carl.L, 17 Dec (DK); L Charleston (Coles Co), 9 Jan (DMt). Greatly reduced numbers.

Killdeer

MC: 21, Pope Co, 21 Dec (RSR, VL, DMn); 10, Carl.L, 23 Feb (DK); 8, Chau, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM); 5, Joliet (Will Co), 5 Jan (UG). **Others:** 5, Carl.L, 14 Dec (DK); 5, Rend L, 14 Dec (KAM, CL); 3, UCCA, 16 Dec (KAM); 3, Spoon L (Knox Co), 18 Dec (DJM); 3, Massac Co, 31 Dec (FB). This species was much less abundant.

[SOLITARY SANDPIPER

Green R (Lee Co), **5 Jan**.]

DUNLIN

Carl.L, **17 Dec** (KAM, CL, LH, BS)--first Illinois winter record.

Wilson's Snipe

MC: 30, Chau, 12 Dec (R&SBj); 12, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 4, Rkfd, 23 Feb (DTW). **Others:** 2, Mermet L, 31 Dec & 18 Jan (FB); Barstow (Rock Island Co), 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, BC); Wauk., 1 Jan (PS); Hidden L FP (Du Page Co), 19 Jan (DFS); L&D#13 (Whiteside Co), 8 Feb (UG). This species was somewhat less numerous.

American Woodcock

5, Johnson Co, 22 Feb> (KAM, DK, FB); 2-3, New Columbia (Massac Co), "aerial displaying during morning and evening", 18-28 Feb (FB). Once again, this species was relatively scarce throughout the state.

Bonaparte's Gull

MC: 5500, Rend L, 8 Dec (KAM)--**record winter-season high count; 2000**, Rend L, 3 Jan (FB); **1000**, Carl.L, 29 Dec (DK). **Others:** 178, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (CH); 15, CrabOr., 29 Dec (UG). Considerably less widespread, but excellent numbers within its restricted distribution in southern Illinois.

Ring-billed Gull

MC: 80,000, Carl.L, 8-9 Feb (DK)--**record winter-season high count; 20,000**, Carl.L, 12 Jan (DK); **11,000**, Rend L, 8 Dec (KAM); 2215, Rock Island Co, 15 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 660, Chi, 25 Dec (KJM, JG, m.ob.); 293, Chau, 9 Jan (R&SBj); 178, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (TM, m.ob.). **Others:** 340, Rock Island Co, 26 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 310, Wilmette (Cook Co), 28 Dec (EW, WS, m.ob.). Less numerous, particularly in the northern and central regions.

[CALIFORNIA GULL

ad., LCal., 8 Feb.]

Herring Gull

MC: 6000, SRock, 8 Feb (MR, PO, KK); 3500, LCal., 28 Dec (WM, SH); 1000, Carl.L, 8-9 Feb (DK). **Others:** 520, L&D#13 (Whiteside Co), 18 Dec (KJM). This species remained fairly scarce this winter.

Thayer's Gull

MC: 36 (7 1st, 2 2nd, 2 3rd, 25 ad.), SRock, 16 Feb (MR, EES); **12** (2 1st, 1 2nd, 1 3rd, 8 ad.), SRock, 28 Jan (MR); **8** (2 1st, 1 2nd, 5 ad.), LCal., 28 Dec (WM, SH). **Others:** 5 (3 1st, 2 ad.), North Point Marina (Lake Co), 18 Jan (PS); 2 1st, Rock Falls (Whiteside Co), 5 Jan (KJM, SBH, BC); 2 ad., Miss.R (Rock Island Co), 6 & 12 Jan (SF); 1st, Butterworth P (Rock Island Co), 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, BC); 1st, L&D#13 (Whiteside Co), 18 Dec (KJM); 1st, Chi, 25 Dec (KJM); 1st, Ohio R (Massac Co), 31 Dec & 2 Jan (KJM, FB); Madison Co, 26 Jan (FH). Relatively more abundant this winter, but restricted almost entirely to northern Illinois.

Iceland Gull

MC: 11 (1 1st, 1 3rd, 9 ad. "Kumlien's"), SRock, 11 Feb (MR, CC); **5** (5 ad. "Kumlien's"), SRock, 25 Jan (MR, PO, KK, MJC); **5** (3 1st, 1 2nd, 1 ad.), LCal., 8 Feb (WM, WS, m.ob.). **Others:** 3 (2 1st, 1 ad.), North Point Marina (Lake Co), 7 Dec (PS); 2nd, SRock, 19 Jan (KAM, DK); 3rd, LCal., 2 Feb (WM); 2nd, Winthrop Harbor (Lake Co), 15 Feb (UG). Somewhat more abundant, but restricted entirely to the northern region.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

MC: 6 (ad.), SRock, 25 Jan (MR, PO, KK, MJC); **5** (ad.), LCal., 28 Dec (WM); 2, Madison Co, 26 Jan (FH). **Others:** 4 (1 1st, 1 3rd, 2 ad.), SRock, 9 Feb (DTW); 2 (1 1st, 1 2nd), North Point Marina (Lake Co), 12 Jan (PS); 2 ad., Winthrop Harbor (Lake Co), 18 Jan (PS); ad., Grant P, Chi, 5 Dec (DFS); ad., Rend L, 14 Dec & 3 Jan (DK, FB); ad., Heidecke L (Grundy Co), 28 Dec (CA); ad., Joppa (Massac Co), 31 Dec (FB); ad., Carl.L, 2 Jan (DK); ad., HL, 31 Jan (KAM); 1st, Carl.L, 9 Feb (DK). Somewhat more abundant this winter.

[GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL

1st, SRock, 8-27 Feb.]

Glaucous Gull

MC: 4 (1 1st, 1 2nd, 2 ad.), LCal., 28 Dec (WM, SH); 4 (1 2nd, 1 3rd, 2 ad.), SRock, 16 Feb (GW). **Others:** 3 (1 1st, 1 3rd, 1 ad.), LCal., 8 Feb (WM, WS,

Barred Owl. Decatur; Macon County. 15 January 2003. Photo by Travis Mahan.

m.ob.); 1st, Carl.L, 17 Dec (KAM, CL, LH, BS); 1st, IBSP, 21 Dec (PS); 1st, Rend L, 3, 8 & 20 Jan (FB, DK, KAM); Madison Co, 30 Jan (FH); ad., North Point Marina (Lake Co), 1 Feb (PS); 3rd, North Point Marina (Lake Co), 15 Feb (GW). Somewhat more abundant and widespread.

Great Black-backed Gull

MC: **12** (6 3rd, 6 ad.), Calumet P, LCal., 28 Jan (CM). **Others:** 2 ad., LCal., 28 Dec (WM); 2 ad., La Salle Co, 16 Feb (PS); ad., GrtLakes, 1 Jan (PS); 1st, North Point Marina (Lake Co), 18 Jan (PS); 1st, SRock, 2-9 Feb (GW, DTW, MR, m.ob.). No reports outside northern Illinois.

Black-legged Kittiwake

1st, **Carl.L.**, 17 Dec (LH, KAM, CL, BS). **Editor's note**: The overwhelming majority of Illinois records of this species are of immatures in late fall and early winter along Lake Michigan. Documentation is strongly encouraged for sightings not fitting the majority pattern.

Rock Pigeon

MC: **1201**, Rock Island Co, 15 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); **1103**, Whiteside & Lee Cos, 5 Jan (KJM, m.ob.); 430, Cook Co, 1 Feb (DFS); 350, Edwards Co, 19 Dec (DFS); 205, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (KJ, NC); 113, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (TM, m.ob.). **Others:** 338, Ogle Co, 21 Dec (EW, KW, TB); 214, Evanston (Cook Co), 28 Dec (EW, WS); 212, Will Co, 29 Dec (KJM).

Eurasian Collared-Dove

MC: **34**, Carl.L, 17 Dec (KAM, DK); **30**, Waltonville (Jefferson Co), 1 Jan (DK); 18, Cicero (Cook Co), 22 Jan (CT); 11, Grand Ridge (La Salle Co), 9 Feb (AS). **Others:** 8, Carl.L, 2 Feb (DK); 5, Metropolis (Massac Co), 10 Jan (FB); 4, Verona (Grundy Co), 12 Jan (GW); 3, Pulaski Co, 22 Feb (FB); 2, Mermet L, 31 Dee (KAM, DK); 2, Bolingbrook (Will Co), 18 Jan (EW, KW). Still increasing.

Mourning Dove

MC: 498, Rock Island Co, 22 Dec (KJM, SF); 420, Kankakee Co, 4 Jan (DFS); 401, Whiteside & Lee Cos, 5 Jan (CK, m.ob.); 212, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 92, Alexander Co, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 62, St. Clair Co, 31 Jan (KAM). **Others:** 315, Will Co, 29 Dec (KJM); 271, Rock Island Co, 26 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 230, Grundy Co, 9 Feb (DFS); 197, Vmln Co, 4 Jan (KJM, MW); 150, Rock Island Co, 15 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 108, Ogle Co, 21 Dec (EW, KW, TB); 95, LCal., 28 Dec (WM); 69, McDonough Co, 19 Jan (LLH).

Monk Parakeet

MC: **149**, Burnham (Cook Co), 2 Feb (WM); **134**, Burnham (Cook Co), 4 Jan (EW). **Others:** 14, JP, 25 Dec (KJM); 2, **Carl.L.**, 8 Dec (DK). Other than the couple of birds reported in southern Illinois, this species remains confined to the northeast.

Eastern Screech-Owl

MC: 24, Du Page & Will Cos, 14 Dec (AW); 15, Carl.L, 17 Dec (DK). **Others:** 3, Rend L, 14 Dec (FB); 3, Pope Co, 21 Dec (FB); 3, Mermet L, 31 Dec (FB); 3, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (KJM, VL); 3, Green R, 5 Jan (KJM, SBH, BC).

Great Horned Owl

MC: 17, Lee Co, 5 Jan (KJM, SBH, BC); 13, Rock Island Co, 26 Dec (KJM); 13, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (BB, m.ob.); 8, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (KJM, VL). **Others:** 8, Rock Island Co, 23 Dec (KJM); 3, Massac Co, 31 Dec (KJM).

Snowy Owl

imm., La Salle L (La Salle Co), 28 Dec-26 Jan (DTW, KAM, m.ob.).

Barred Owl

MC: 10, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (BB, m.ob.); 6, Carl.L, 17 Dec (DK); 6, Pope Co, 21 Dec (FB); 4, Rock Island Co, 15 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 3, SRock, 18 Jan (EW, KW). **Others:** 4, Pulaski Co, 16 Dec (RSR, m.ob.); 3, Massac Co, 31 Dec (KJM); 3, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (KJM, VL); 2, Rkfd, all winter (DTW).

Long-eared Owl

MC: 4, Rend L, 8 Jan (KAM). **Others:** 2, Greene Valley FP (Du Page Co), 8 Dec (UG); 2, Rock Island Co, 26 Dec (KJM, JS, DF); 2, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (KJM, SBH); 2, Green R, 5 Jan (KJM, SBH, BC); M.Arb., 12 Dec (R&KF); Pope Co, 21 Dec (FB); Jackson Co, 1 Jan (KJM, VL); Kankakee (Kankakee Co), 4 Jan (GW).

Short-eared Owl

MC: 4, Grassy Slough (Johnson Co), 29 Dec (UG); 4, Jackson Co, 11 Jan (RSR). **Others:** 3, Carl.L, 2 Jan (DK).

Northern Saw-whet Owl

Urbana (Champaign Co), 7 Dec (JJ, ER); Carl.L, 15 & 21 Dec & 1 Feb (DK); Green R, 5 Jan (KJM, SBH, BC); M.Arb., 15 & 18 Jan & 7 Feb (MBC, JC).

[RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD

Elgin (Kane Co), 8-14 Dec & 4 Jan.]

Belted Kingfisher

MC: 6, Rock Island Co, 15 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 6, Whiteside & Lee Cos, 5 Jan (CK, m.ob.); 5, Massac Co, 31 Dec (KJM); 5, HL, 15 Jan (JZ); 4, Cook Co, 15 Dec (PS); 4, Rock Island & Whiteside Cos, 23 Dec (KJM, RN, AM). **Others:** 4, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (JOS, ES); 3, Spoon L (Knox Co), 12 Dec (DJM); 3, Carl.L, 17 Dec (KAM); 3, Whiteside & Carroll Cos, 18 Dec (KJM); 3, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (TM, m.ob.); 3, Lake Co, 28 Dec (PS).

Red-headed Woodpecker

MC: **306**, OakwdBtms, 1 Jan (KJM, VL); **212**, UCCA, 20 Dec (RSR, VL); 7, Rock Island Co, 15 Dec (GO, m.ob.); 5, Mason Co, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM). **Others:** 51, HLCA, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 25, Carl.L, 17 Dec (DK); 15, Rend L, 14 Dec (KAM); 4, Rock Island Co, 26 Dec (KJM, JS, DF). Much more numerous in the south, but limited numbers throughout the central and northern regions.

Red-bellied Woodpecker

MC: 68, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 65, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (KJM, VL); 50, Rock Island Co, 15 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 49, Marion Co, 28 Dec (RSR, m.ob.); 42, Rock Island Co, 26 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 24, Mason Co, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM). **Others:** 46, UCCA, 20 Dec (RSR, VL); 28, Alexander Co, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 21, Whiteside & Carroll Cos, 18 Dec (KJM, EA, DW); 15, Lee Co, 24 Jan (DFS); 10, Highland P (Lake Co), 28 Dec (EW, WS, m.ob.).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

2, Rend L, 14 Dec (LH, BS); 2, Rock Island Co, 15 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 2, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); Mercer Co, 27 Dec (TM, WZ); Madison Co, 29-30 Dec< (FH); Massac Co, 31 Dec (KJM); OakwdBtms, 1 Jan (KJM, VL); Sannauk FP (De Kalb Co), 3 Jan (DJS); LSpfld, 3 Jan (JC); MidFkVmln, 4 Jan (KJM, MW); Lee Co, 5 Jan (CK); imm., M.Arb., 8 & 18 Jan (JC, MBC); Rend L, 8 Jan< (KAM); SRock, 11 Jan (EW, KW); Lawrence Co, 28 Jan (LH, BS).

Downy Woodpecker

MC: 79, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 71, Rock Island Co, 15 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 68, Roek Island Co, 26 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 40, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (KJM, VL); 34, UCCA, 20 Dec (RSR, VL); 20, Mason Co, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM). **Others:** 54, Whiteside & Lee Cos, 5 Jan (KJM, m.ob.); 33, Lee Co, 24 Jan (DFS).

Hairy Woodpecker

MC: 18, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 12, Rock Island Co, 15 Dec (GO, m.ob.); 12, OakwdBtms, 1 Jan (KJM, VL); 11, Rock Island & Whiteside Cos, 23 Dec (KJM, RN, AM); 10, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 8, Mason Co, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM). **Others:** 8, Rock Island Co, 26 Dec (KJM, TM); 5, Rend L, 14 Dec (KAM, CL); 5, Massac Co, 31 Dec (FB).

Northern Flicker

MC: 34, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 33, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (KJM, VL); 31, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 19, Rock Island Co, 15 Dec (JR, RRd, m.ob.); 18, Putnam & Bureau Cos, 15 Dec (DJS); 15, Mason Co, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM). **Others:** 29, Alexander Co, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 28, CrabOr., 14 Dec (RSR, LW, JM); 13, Rock Island Co, 26 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 10, Vmln Co, 4 Jan (KJM, MW); 8, Lee Co, 24 Jan (DFS). Fairly typical numbers reported.

Pileated Woodpecker

MC: 19, OakwdBtms, 1 Jan (KJM, VL); 12, Pomona (Jackson Co), 1 Jan (RSR, DMn, JM); 7, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 6, Rock Island Co, 26 Dec (TM, m.ob.); 6, Vmln Co, 4 Jan (KJM, MW); 3, Rock Island Co, 22 Dec (KJM, SF). **Others:** 9, CrabOr., 14 Dec (RSR, LW, JM); 8, UCCA, 20 Dec (RSR, VL); 4, HLCA, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 2, Mason Co, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM); 2, New Columbia (Massac Co), 31 Dec (FB); Carl.L, 17 Dec (DK); Carroll Co, 18 Dec (EA, DW); Lowden-Miller State Forest (Ogle Co), 21 Dec (TB, EW). This species was somewhat more evident, especially in the south.

Eastern Phoebe

Cook Co, 15 Dec (PS); Palmer Rd (Monroe Co), 16 Dec (JZ); Clark Co, 19 Dec (DFS); Joppa (Massac Co), 27 Dec (FB); Mermet L, 31 Dec & 19 Jan (KJM, FB); Greene Valley FP (Du Page Co), 3 Jan (MBC); Lawrence Co, 25 Feb> (LH, BS).

Loggerhead Shrike

MC: 7, Pulaski Co, 16 Dec (RSR, m.ob.); 3, Shattuc Rd (Clinton Co), 17 Dec (DK). **Others:** 2, Marion Co, 28 Dec (RSR, m.ob.); Shelby Co, 21 Dec (DFS); Rock Island Co, 26 Dec (*KJM); New Columbia (Massac Co), 3 Jan (FB); Johnson Co, 3 Jan (FB); Bald.L, 3 Feb (KAM).

Northern Shrike

Rkfd, 14 Dec & 1 Jan (DTW); Rock Island Co, 26 Dec (KJM); LCal., 28 Dec (KW, WM); Green R, 5 Jan (KJM, SBH, BC); Greene Valley FP (Du Page Co), 12 Jan (UG); Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe (Cook Co), 6-28 Feb (JFS, AA, EW, m.ob.); Goose L (Grundy Co), 13 Feb (JC). Very few were encountered, and this species was only found in the north.

Blue Jay

MC: 205, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (JOS, ES); 190, Marion Co, 28 Dec (RSR, m.ob.); 179, Mason Co, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM); 102, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 63, Rock Island Co, 15 Dec (JR, RRd, m.ob.); 53, Whiteside & Carroll Cos, 18 Dec (KJM, EA, DW). **Others:** 111, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 69, Alexander Co, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 63, Rend L, 14 Dec (KAM, CL); 60, Carl.L, 17 Dec (DK); 51, Massac Co, 31 Dec (KJM). This species was somewhat more abundant.

American Crow

MC: 1000, HL, 29 Jan (KAM); 500, SRock, 19 Jan (KAM, DK); 446, Marion Co, 28 Dec (RSR, m.ob.); 432, Whiteside & Lee Cos, 5 Jan (KJM, m.ob.); 121, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (TM, m.ob.). **Others:** 350, St. Clair Co, 30 Jan (KAM); 238, JP, 10 Dec (PC); 231, Rock Island Co, 15 Dec (JR, RRd, m.ob.); 200, Rend L, 30 Dec (KAM); 161, LCal., 28 Dec (WM); 100, Evanston (Cook Co), all winter (EW); 98, Rock Island Co, 26 Dec (JS, DF, m.ob.); 50, Carl.L, 17 Dec (DK). Somewhat less abundant this winter.

Horned Lark

MC: 300, Carl.L, 17 Dec (DK); 284, Whiteside & Lee Cos, 5 Jan (KJM, m.ob.); 274, Grundy & La Salle Cos, 18 Jan (DJS); 175, UCCA, 8 Dec (KAM); 119, Vmln Co, 4 Jan (KJM, MW). **Others:** 158, Marion Co, 28 Dec (RSR, m.ob.); 120, La Salle Co, 19 Jan (KAM, DK); 109, Johnson Co, 18 Jan (FB); 90, Mermet L, 31 Dec (KAM, DK); 44, Cordova (Rock Island Co), 23 Dec (KJM). Somewhat less conspicuous, likely due to limited snow cover.

BARN SWALLOW

2, Union Co, **20 Dec** (*SDB, SD).

Carolina Chickadee

MC: 111, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (KJM, VL); 99, Marion Co, 28 Dec (RSR, m.ob.); 20, Vmln Co, 4 Jan (KJM, MW). **Others:** 77, Pomona (Jackson Co), 1 Jan (RSR, DMn, JM); 72, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 65, Carl.L, 14 Dec (DK); 53, Massac Co, 31 Dec (KJM); 46, Rend L, 14 Dec (KAM, CL); 44, Alexander Co, 19 Dec (VK, KJM). Although more abundant this winter, this species was still probably under-reported.

Black-capped Chickadee

MC: 243, Rock Island Co, 26 Dec (JS, DF, m.ob.); 173, Rock Island Co, 15 Dec (JR, RRd, m.ob.); 147, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (TM, m.ob.); 46, Mason Co, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM). **Others:** 70, Whiteside & Carroll Cos, 18 Dec (KJM, EA, DW); 60, Ogle Co, 21 Dec (EW, KW, TB); 59, Kendall Co, 25 Jan (DFS); 25, Highland P (Lake Co), 28 Dec (EW, WS); **Madison Co**, 6 Jan (FH). This species is certainly greatly under-reported.

Tufted Titmouse

MC: 99, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (KJM, VL); 94, Pulaski Co, 16 Dec (RSR, m.ob.); 23, Ogle Co, 21 Dec (EW, KW, TB); 20, Mason Co, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM); 19, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 18, Rock Island Co, 26 Dec (KJM, m.ob.). **Others:** 44, Pomona (Jackson Co), 1 Jan (RSR, DMn, JM); 36, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 25, Rend L, 14 Dec (DK, KAM, CL); 23, Alexander Co, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 21, Massac Co, 31 Dec (KJM); 11, Kendall Co, 25 Jan (DFS). Appeared to be slightly more abundant.

Red-breasted Nuthatch

2, Winnebago Co, 23 Feb (DTW, PS); Shabbona L SP (De Kalb Co), 13 Dec (JC); New Columbia (Massac Co), 19 Dec (FB); M.Arb., 12 Jan (UG); Lake Co, 12 Jan (PS); Carl.L, 12 Jan & 2 Feb (DK); IBSP, 1 Feb (PS). Extremely scarce throughout Illinois.

White-breasted Nuthatch

MC: 140, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 79, Rock Island Co, 26 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 45, Rock Island & Whiteside Cos, 23 Dec (KJM, RN, AM); 39, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (RSR, DMn, JM); 33, Pulaski Co, 16 Dec (RSR, m.ob.); 23, Mason Co, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM). **Others:** 39, Ogle Co, 21 Dec (EW, KW, TB); 30, Rock Island Co, 22 Dec (KJM, SF); 22, Lee Co, 24 Jan (DFS); 10, Highland P (Lake Co), 28 Dec (EW, WS); 10, Vmln Co, 4 Jan (KJM, MW).

Brown Creeper

MC: 17, Whiteside & Carroll Cos, 18 Dec (KJM, EA, DW); 17, Alexander Co, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 15, Rock Island & Whiteside Cos, 23 Dec (KJM, RN, AM); 15, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 13, Mason Co, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM); 8, OakwdBtms, 1 Jan (KJM, VL). **Others:** 8, Vmln Co, 4 Jan (KJM, MW); 7, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 7, Fox R (Kane Co), 23 Feb (UG); 5, Rend L, 14 Dec (KAM, CL); 5, Rosemont (Cook Co), 15 Dec (AA); 4, Carl.L, 17 Dec (DK); 4, Ogle Co, 21 Dec (EW, KW, TB); 4, Pope Co, 21 Dec (RSR, VL, DMn); 4, Winnebago Co, 23 Feb (PS); 3, Boone Co, 21 Jan (AEB); 2, M.Arb., 4 Jan (KAM, m.ob.); Will Co, 29 Dec (KJM); JP, 1 Jan (PC). Substantially more numerous this winter.

Carolina Wren

MC: 40, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (KJM, VL); **39**, UCCA, 20 Dec (RSR, VL); 9, McDonough & Fulton Cos, 14 Dec (LLH); 6, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (KJM, SBH); 5, Rock Island Co, 15 Dec (JR, RRd, m.ob.); 4, Kendall Co, 25 Jan (DFS). **Others: 32**, Pulaski Co, 16 Dec (RSR, m.ob.); 15, Rend L, 14 Dec (KAM, CL); 15, Alexander Co, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 10, Massac Co, 31 Dec (KJM); 5, MidFkVmln, 4 Jan (KJM, MW); 4, Carl.L, 12 Jan (DK); 3, Vmln Co, all winter (JOS, ES); 2, Rock Island Co, 23 Dec (KJM); 2, Highland P (Lake Co), 28 Dec (EW, WS); 2, JP, 18 Feb (PC); Aten P (Du Page Co), 14 Dec (R&KF); Mason Co, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM); I&M Canal (La Salle Co), 1 Jan (DJS); Boone Co, 8-19 Jan (AEB); SRock, 16 Feb (MBC). Relatively abundant and widespread, especially in the central and southern regions.

HOUSE WREN

Hampton (Rock Island Co), **15 Dec** (*KJM, SBH, BC).

Winter Wren

MC: 6, HLCA, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 5, Geneva (Kane Co), 14 Dee (PS); 4, Mermet L, 31 Dec (KJM); 3, Bureau Co, 15 Dec (DJS). **Others:** 3, OakwdBtms, 1 Jan (KJM, VL); 2, JP, 3 Dec (PC, SC); 2, Rend L, 14 Dec (KAM, CL); 2, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 2, Kendall Co, 29 Dec

(DFS); Illiniwek FP (Rock Island Co), 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, BC); Highland P (Lake Co), 28-31 Dec (EW, WS); GrtLakes, 1 Jan (PS); Boone Co, 2 Jan (AEB); Plum Creek FP (Cook Co), 4 Jan (EW); Vmln Co, 4 Jan (KJM, MW); Lee Co, 5 Jan (CK); HL, 15 Jan (FH); Wheaton (Du Page Co), 25 Jan (EW); Lawrence Co, 5 Feb (LH, BS). Relatively abundant and widespread through December.

SEDGE WREN

Massac Co, 19 Dec (FB).

MARSH WREN

Union Co, 20 Dec (SDB, SD); Mermet L, 31 Dec (FB).

Golden-crowned Kinglet

MC: **69**, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (KJM, VL); **31**, Pulaski Co, 16 Dec (RSR, m.ob.); 12, Vmln Co, 4 Jan (KJM, MW); 11, Sand Ridge State Forest (Mason Co), 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM); 10, Whiteside & Carroll Cos, 18 Dec (KJM, EA, DW); 10, Rock Island & Whiteside Cos, 23 Dec (KJM, RN, AM). **Others:** 28, Massac Co, 31 Dec (FB); 17, Rend L, 14 Dec (KAM, CL); 17, Alexander Co, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 17, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 10, Carl.L, 17 Dec (DK); 6, Timber Ridge FP (Du Page Co), 14 Dec (UG); 4, Cook Co, 16 Dec (PS); 4, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 4, Highland P (Lake Co), 28 Dec (PS). Abundant and widespread throughout the state.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

MC: 3, HLCA, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 3, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 2, Kendall Co, 29 Dec (DFS). **Others:** 2, OakwdBtms, 1 Jan (KJM, VL); Aten P (Du Page Co), 14 Dec (R&KF); Rend L, 14 Dec (KAM, CL); Rock Island Co, 22 Dec (*KJM, SF); New Columbia (Massac Co), 7 Jan (FB); Illini SP (La Salle Co), 8 Jan (DFS); O'Fallon (St. Clair Co), 7 & 17 Feb (KAM).

Eastern Bluebird

MC: 62, Marion Co, 28 Dec (RSR, m.ob.); 42, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (JOS, ES); 18, McDonough & Fulton Cos, 14 Dec (LLH); 15, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 6, Whiteside Co, 18 Dec (KJM); 6, Rock Island Co, 26 Dec (KJM). **Others:** 36, Mermet L, 31 Dec (KAM, DK); 29, Rend L, 14 Dec (KAM, CL); 29, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 18, Alexander Co, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 10, Carl.L, 17 Dec (DK); 8, Knox Co, 1 Dec (DJM); 4, Lyons Woods FP (Lake Co), 21 Dec (PS); 4, Mason Co, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM); 4, Vmln Co, 4 Jan (KJM, MW); 4, Green R, 5 Jan (KJM, SBH, BC); 4, M.Arb., 18 Jan (DTW).

SWAINSON'S THRUSH

JP, **8 & 10 Dec** (*PC).

Hermit Thrush

MC: 5, Rend L, 14 Dec (DK); 5, Klehm Arboretum (Winnebago Co), 28 Dec (DTW); 3, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (TM, m.ob.); 3, Massac Co, 31 Dec (KJM). **Others:** 2, JP, 8 Dec (PC); 2, Mason Co, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM); 2, Highland P (Lake Co), 28 Dec (EW, WS, m.ob.); 2, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (JOS, ES, CH); 2, Tazewell Co, 30 Jan (JC); Greene Valley FP (Du Page Co), 8 Dec (UG); Bloomington (McLean Co), 14 Dec (MR, JK, GH); CrabOr., 14 Dec (RSR, LW, JM); Rock Island Co, 26 Dec (KJM); Will Co, 29 Dec (KJM); Carl.L, 2 Jan (DK); Green R, 5 Jan (KJM, SBH, BC); M.Arb., 25 Jan (EW); Wolf L, LCal., 26 Jan (CM); Lawrence Co, 4 Feb (LH, BS). Considerably more numerous and widespread.

American Robin

MC: 700, Cook Co, 15 Dec (PS); 400, Carl.L, 9 Feb (DK); 325, Tazewell Co, 6 Feb (JC); 300, Tilden (Randolph Co), 1 Jan (DK); 130, Des Plaines (Cook Co), 17 Feb (AA); 12, Sand Ridge State Forest (Mason Co), 21 Dec (KJM, m.ob.). **Others:** 238, Carbondale (Jackson Co), 26 Feb (RSR); 200, HL, 29 Dec< (FH); 115, St. Clair Co, 16 Jan (KAM); 100, Johnson Co, 22 Feb (KAM, DK, FB); 60, Thomson (Carroll Co), 18 Dec (KJM); 59, Massac Co, 31 Dec (KJM); 52, Alexander Co, 19 Dec (VK, KJM).

GRAY CATBIRD

New Milford (Winnebago Co), **28 Dec** (DTW); Hyde P, Chi, **19 Jan** (SC).

Northern Mockingbird

MC: **18**, Marion Co, 28 Dec (RSR, m.ob.); 8, Massac Co, 31 Dec (KAM, DK); 8, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (KJ, NC); 3, McDonough & Fulton Cos, 14 Dec (LLH). **Others:** 3, Rend L, 14 Dec (DK); 2, Carl.L, 17 Dec (DK); 2, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 2, Mason Co, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM). Considerably more common and widespread this winter.

Brown Thrasher

2, Rend L, 14 Dec (LH, BS); 2, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 2, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (KJM, VL); Alexander Co, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); Klehm Arboretum (Winnebago Co), 29 Dec & 19 Feb (DTW); Massac Co, 31 Dec (RSR, VL); Lawrence Co, 28 Jan (LH, BS); Mermet L, 22 Feb> (KAM, DK, FB).

European Starling

MC: **17,320**, Pulaski Co, 16 Dec (RSR, m.ob.); 6500, Rend L, 14 Dec (KAM, CL); 6500, LCal., 28 Dec (WM, KW); 3150, Kankakee Co, 4 Jan (DFS); 2574, Rock Island Co, 15 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 831, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (BB, m.ob.). **Others:** 2139, Whiteside & Lee Cos, 5 Jan (J&SB, m.ob.); 2000, Carl.L, 1 Jan (DK); 1527, Will Co, 29 Dec (KJM); 1240, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 1045, Rock Island Co, 26 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 1009, Whiteside & Carroll Cos, 18 Dec (KJM, EA, DW); 497, Evanston (Cook Co), 28 Dec (EW, WS, m.ob.); 304, Alexander Co, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 300, Vmln Co, all winter (JOS, ES). Considerably more abundant this winter

American Pipit

MC: 6, Carl.L, 7 Dec (DK); 5 Cypress Creek NWR, 16 Dec (SDB); 3, Mermet L, 18 Jan (FB). **Others:** 2, UCCA, 16 Dec (KAM); Rend L, 14 Dec (KAM, CL); Carroll Co, 18 Dec (*KJM); Will Co, 22 Feb> (AS).

Cedar Waxwing

MC: 135, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 125, Tazewell Co, 6 Feb (JC); 96, Des Plaines (Cook Co), 17 Feb (AA); 85, Klehm Arboretum (Winnebago Co), 7 Dec (DFS); 84, Carl.L, 17 Dec (RSR, m.ob.); 30, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (TE, AB). **Others:** 59, Mason Co, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM); 38, Chi, 7 Dec (AA); 29, Rock Island Co, 15 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 28, CrabOr., 14 Dec (RSR, LW, JM); 24, Klehm Arboretum (Winnebago Co), 25 Jan (DTW); 18, Lake Co, 28 Dec (PS); 17, Boone Co, 6 Dec (AEB); 17, New Columbia (Massac Co), 7 Jan (FB); 16, M.Arb., 30 Dec-8 Jan (MBC); 15, Carl.L, 12 Jan (DK). Considerably less abundant throughout the state.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER

HL, **19 Jan** (DSB).

Yellow-rumped Warbler

MC: 13, Pomona (Jackson Co), 2 Feb (RSR); 9, Kendall Co, 29 Dec (DFS); 7, Mermet L, 31 Dec (FB); 6-12, Lawrence Co, 28 Jan-27 Feb (LH, BS); 6, Rock Island Co, 22 Dec (KJM, SF). **Others:** 4, Lake Co, 28 Dec (PS); 3, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 3, Sugar Creek L (Pope Co), 21 Dec (FB); 2, HLCA, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 2, Klehm Arboretum (Winnebago Co), 28 Dec & 25 Jan (DTW); 2, OakwdBtms, 1 Jan (KJM, VL); Chi, 7 Dec (AA); Bureau Co, 15 Dec (DJS); St. Clair Co, 21 Dec (FH); St. Charles (Kane Co), 27 Dec (DJS); Rosemont (Cook Co), 15 Jan (AA); Palos FP (Cook Co), 25 Jan-2 Feb (EW, m.ob.). Less numerous, but widespread, throughout the state.

HERMIT WARBLER

M.Arb., **8 Dec-2 Feb** (*EES, *CM, *UG, *m.ob.). **First confirmed Illinois record.**

PINE WARBLER

Elgin (Kane Co), **22 Dec** (RR, NB); Carl.L, **28 Dec, 5 & 12 Jan** (*UG, DK); Rend L, **1 Jan** (DK).

PALM WARBLER

ad. (race *palmarum*), Towanda (McLean Co), 14-15 Dec (DB, LS, MR).

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT

Joppa (Massac Co), **20-31 Dec** (FB).

Eastern Towhee

MC: **9**, Massac Co, 31 Dec (KJM); **5**, Alexander Co, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 2 (pr.), Palos FP (Cook Co), 11-25 Jan (EW). **Others:** 4, Rend L, 14 Dec (KAM, CL); 3, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (KJM, VL); 2, UCCA, 20 Dec (KJM); 2, Carl.L, 9 Feb (DK); male, Evanston (Cook Co), 1-25 Dec (EW); Seneca (La Salle Co), 29 Dec (DJS); male, Coles Co, 1 Jan (LBH); male, Kankakee Co, 4 Jan (DFS). Somewhat more common and widespread throughout Illinois.

American Tree Sparrow

MC: 533, Whiteside & Lee Cos, 5 Jan (KJM, m.ob.); 367, Rock Island Co, 26 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 249, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 203, Mason Co, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM); 100, Carl.L, 17 Dec (DK); 70, CrabOr., 14 Dec (RSR, LW, JM). **Others:** 131, Will Co, 29 Dec (KJM); 112, De Kalb Co, 2 Feb (DFS); 96, Nachusa Grassland SP (Lee Co), 21 Dec (EW, KW, TB); 75, LCal., 25 Jan (EW); 65, M.Arb., 27 Jan (AA, RH); 64, Marion Co, 28 Dec (RSR, m.ob.); 59, Vmln Co, 4 Jan (KJM, MW); 58, Massac Co, 31 Dec (FB).

Field Sparrow

MC: **65**, Massac Co, 31 Dec (KJM); **33**, Alexander Co, 19 Dec (VK, KJM). **Others:** 12, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (CH); 10, Lawrence Co, 4 Feb> (LH, BS); 5, Johnson Co, 25 Jan (KAM); 3, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 2, Carl.L, 17 Dec (DK); 2, Rend L, 29 Dec (UG); Mason Co, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM); Mercer Co, 27 Dec (KJM, SBH); Lake Co, 9 Feb (PS); HL, 25 Feb> (FH). Somewhat more numerous, yet remained restricted almost exclusively to the southern region.

Savannah Sparrow in Wilmette's Gillson Park, Cook County, 15 February 2003. Photos by Eric Walters.

VESPER SPARROW

Alexander Co, **19 Dec** (VK, KJM); Union Co, **15 Feb** (FB).

Savannah Sparrow

MC: 7, Lawrence Co, 27 Feb (LH, BS); 4, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, JF); 4, Mermet L, 31 Dec (FB). **Others:** 3, Johnson Co, 25 Jan (KAM); 2, Carl.L, 18 Feb (DK); HL, 15 Dec (FH); Marion Co, 28 Dec (TH); Chau, 12 Jan (JC); Wilmette (Cook Co), 14-28 Feb (EW).

Le Conte's Sparrow

2, Mermet L, 31 Dec (FB); Rend L, 14 Dec & 8 Jan (DK, KAM).

Fox Sparrow

MC: 20, Lawrence Co, 4 Feb> (LH, BS); 17, Alexander Co, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 11, Kane Co, 16 Dec (LLH). **Others:** 3, Rend L, 14 Dec (KAM, CL); 3, CrabOr., 14 Dec (RSR, LW, JM); 3, Pope Co, 21 Dec (RSR, VL, DMn); 3, I&M Canal (La Salle Co), 30 Dec (DJS); 3, Cook Co, 8 Feb (EW); 2, Winnebago Co, 7 Dec (DTW); 2, Mason Co, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM); 2, New Columbia (Massac Co), 17 Jan (FB); 2, Carl.L, 9 Feb (DK); HL, 8 & 21 Dec< (FH); McDonough Co, 14 Dec (LLH); Hampton (Rock Island Co), 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, BC); Rkfd, 1 Jan & 6 Feb (DTW); Lake Co, 9 Feb (PS).

Song Sparrow

MC: 78, Rend L, 14 Dec (KAM, CL); 77, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (CH); 59, Rock Island Co, 26 Dec (TM, m.ob.); 55, Mason Co, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM); 44, MTwain, 27 Dec (KJM, SBH). **Others:** 56, Marion Co, 28 Dec (RSR, m.ob.); 53, HLCA, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 47, Massac Co, 31 Dec (KJM); 45, Carl.L, 17 Dec (DK); 39, Kankakee Co, 4 Jan (DFS); 38, Pope Co, 21 Dec (RSR, VL, DMn); 34, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 26, Whiteside & Lee Cos, 5 Jan (CK, m.ob.); 24, Will Co, 29 Dec (KJM); 21, Vmln Co, 4 Jan (KJM, MW); 21, De Kalb Co, 2 Feb (DFS); 18, Lake Co, 28 Dec (PS); 8, M.Arb., 25 Jan (EW); 3, Cook Co, 15 Dec (PS). This species was considerably more abundant.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW

UCCA, **20 Dec** (KJM).

Swamp Sparrow

MC: **124**, OakwdBtms, 1 Jan (KJM, VL); 41, MTwain, 27 Dec (KJM, SBH); 38, HLCA, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 35, Rend L, 14 Dec (KAM, CL); 22, Carroll Co, 18 Dec (EA, DW); 22, Milan Bottoms (Rock Island Co), 26 Dec (TM); 15, Mason Co, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM). **Others:** 18, Putnam Co, 11 Dec (DFS); 15, Massac Co, 31 Dec (KJM).

White-throated Sparrow

MC: **384**, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); **254**, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (KJM, VL); 236, Alexander Co, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 60, Mason Co, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM); 40, Downers Grove (Du Page Co), 15 Dec (GW); 36, Loud Thunder FP (Rock Island Co), 26 Dec (KJM); 12, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (KJM, m.ob.). **Others:** 180, Massac Co, 31 Dec (KJM); 98, Carl.L, 17 Dec (RSR, m.ob.); 31, Putnam Co, 11 Dec (DFS); 30, Rend L, 25 Jan (KAM); 27, Rock Island Co, 15 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 26, Bureau Co, 15 Dec (DJS); 25, OÕFallon (St. Clair Co), 25 Feb (KAM); 13, Busse Woods FP (Cook Co), 8 Jan (AA); 11, MidFkVmln, 4 Jan (KJM, MW); 10, La Salle Co, 16 Feb (PS). Substantially more numerous and widespread throughout the state.

HARRIS'S SPARROW

ad., **McDonough Co**, 14 Dec (LLH); **Mercer Co**, 27 Dec (*KJM); imm., **SRock**, 11 Jan-22 Feb (*EW, KW, m.ob.).

White-crowned Sparrow

MC: 46, Massac Co, 31 Dec (KAM, DK); 41, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 30, McDonough Co, 4 Jan (LLH); 25, Shelby Co, 31 Jan (KAM); 20, SRock, 19 Jan (KAM, DK); 15, De Kalb Co, 2 Feb (DFS). **Others:** 25, Carl.L, 17 Dec (DK); 10, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (JOS, ES, CH); 8, Durand (Winnebago Co), 7 Dec (DTW); 5, Loud Thunder FP (Rock Island Co), 26 Dec (KJM).

Dark-eyed Junco

MC: 468, Rock Island Co, 26 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 428, McDonough & Fulton Cos, 14 Dec (LLH); 410, Whiteside & Lee Cos, 5 Jan (KJM, m.ob.); 407, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 371, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (JOS, ES, CH); 284, Marion Co, 28 Dec (RSR, m.ob.). **Others:** 400, Mason Co, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM); 331, Rock Island & Whiteside Cos, 23 Dec (KJM, RN, AM); 288, Whiteside & Carroll Cos, 18 Dec (KJM, EA, DW); 235, Lee Co, 24 Jan (DFS); 168, La Salle & Grundy Cos, 29 Dec (DJS); 128, Massac Co, 31 Dec (KJM); 102, Vmln Co, 4 Jan (KJM, MW); 91, Downers Grove (Du Page Co), 15 Dec (GW); 88, Highland P (Lake Co), 28 Dec (EW, WS, m.ob.); 66, Wolf L, LCal., 24 Feb (CM); 65, Carl.L, 17 Dec (DK); 65, Will Co, 29 Dec (KJM); 44, Alexander Co, 19 Dec (VK, KJM).

Lapland Longspur

MC: **3000**, Lawrence Co, 27 Jan (LH, BS); 625, Whiteside Co, 5 Jan (J&SB); 250, Winnebago Co, 14-15 Jan (DTW); 200, Carl.L, 17 Dec (DK). **Others:** 150, La Salle Co, 19 Jan (KAM, DK); 125, Johnson Co, 22 Feb (KAM, DK, FB); 100, UCCA, 30 Dec (KAM); 100, Massac Co, 22 Feb (FB); 75, Kane Co, 18 Jan (CA). Although virtually unreported from the central region, this species seemed to be slightly more abundant in the north and south.

Snow Bunting

MC: 125, La Salle Co, 19 Jan (KAM, DK); 25, Winthrop Harbor (Lake Co), 29 Dec (KAM). **Others:** 4, Will Co, 29 Dec (KJM); 2, JP, 25 Dec (JG); Lawrence Co, 12 Dec (LH, BS); Winnebago Co, 15 Jan (DTW).

Northern Cardinal

MC: 341, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (JOS, ES, CH); 298, Marion Co, 28 Dec (RSR, m.ob.); 169, Rock Island Co, 15 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 130, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 125, McDonough & Fulton Cos, 14 Dec (LLH); 120, Rock Island Co, 26 Dec (KJM, m.ob.). **Others:** 210, Massac Co, 31 Dec (KJM); 193, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 111, Whiteside & Lee Cos, 5 Jan (KJM, m.ob.); 104, Kankakee Co, 4 Jan (DFS); 103, I&M Canal (La Salle Co), 29 Dec (DJS); 99, Alexander Co, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 89, Mason Co, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM); 87, Whiteside & Carroll Cos, 18 Dec (KJM, EA, DW); 76, Kendall Co, 25 Jan (DFS); 70, Carl.L, 17 Dec (DK); 65, Lenzburg (St. Clair Co), 26 Feb (TUM); 58, Will Co, 29 Dec (KJM). More abundant this year, but probably still under-reported.

BLUE GROSBEAK

imm. male (at feeder), Palos Hills (Cook Co), **1 Mar**. This bird was most likely present during the winter season.

INDIGO BUNTING

imm. Horseshoe Lake CA, 19 Dec (*SDB).

PAINTED BUNTING

male (at feeder), west of Hidalgo (**Jasper Co**), **4-15 Jan** (LSs:photos, LH, BS)**—first Illinois winter record.**

DICKCISSEL

Utica (La Salle Co), **8-9 Feb** (*DTW, *DJS).

Red-winged Blackbird

MC: **102,790**, Rend L, 14 Dec (KAM, CL); **63,630**, Pulaski Co, 16 Dec (RSR, m.ob.); **15,000**, SRock, 11 Jan (EW, KW); **10,000**, Marissa (St. Clair Co), 1 Jan (DK); 3600, La Salle Co, 8 Jan (DFS); 84, Mason Co, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM); 40, Vmln Co, 4 Jan (KJM, MW). **Others:** 5290, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 2819, OakwdBtms, 1 Jan (KJM, VL); 2700, Barstow (Rock Island Co), 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, BC); 1200, Mermet L, 31 Dec (KJM); 779, HLCA, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 404, Rock Island Co, 22 Dec (KJM, SF); 400, Kane Co, 16 Dec (LLH); 32, Will Co, 29 Dec (KJM). Somewhat more abundant, particularly in the southern region.

Eastern Meadowlark

MC: **90**, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); **57**, CrabOr., 14 Dec (RSR, LW, JM); **53**, Marion Co, 28 Dec (RSR, m.ob.); **46**, Massac Co, 31 Dec (KAM, DK); 10, Shelby Co, 21 Dec (DFS). **Others:** 25, Pulaski Co, 8 Dec (KAM); 22, Levee Rd (Monroe Co), 12 Jan (JZ); 20, Carl.L, 17 Dec (DK); 18, Alexander Co, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 14, St. Clair Co, 5 Feb (KAM). Considerably more abundant, but almost exclusively restricted to the southern portion of the state.

Western Meadowlark

Shelby Co, 21 Dec (DFS); Marion Co, 28 Dec (*RSR, m.ob.); Levee Rd (Monroe Co), 12 Jan (JZ).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD

3, Mermet L, 5 Dec (FB)**—Illinois winter high count;** male, LaSalle Co, 16 Feb (PS).

Rusty Blackbird

MC: 75, Rend L, 14 Dec (KAM, CL); 75, HLCA, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 6, MTwain, 27 Dec (KJM); 2, SRock, 18 Jan (EW, KW). **Others:** 43, UCCA, 20 Dec (RSR, VL); 25, Mermet L, 31 Dec (KAM, DK); 22, Marion Co, 28 Dec (RSR, m.ob.); 2, O'Fallon (St. Clair Co), 16 Feb (KAM); male, McDonough Co, 14 Dec (LLH); Wolf L, LCal., 26 Jan-24 Feb (CM). Substantially less abundant this winter.

Brewer's Blackbird

MC: 40, Grundy Co, 12 Jan (R&KF). **Others:** female, LaSalle Co, 19 Jan (MBC). This species was much less abundant, and was found only in the northern region.

Common Grackle

MC: **900,000**, HL, 18 Dec (FH); **518,500**, Rend L, 14 Dec (KAM, CL); **34,148**, Pulaski Co, 16 Dec (RSR, m.ob.); **10,000**, Marissa (St. Clair Co), 1 Jan (DK); 6000, La Salle Co, 16 Feb (DJS); 2500, La Salle Co, 7-8 Jan (DFS); 10, Vmln Co, 4 Jan (KJM, MW). **Others:** 1875, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 1821, HLCA, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 1620, Mermet L, 31 Dec (KJM); 710, Barstow (Rock Island Co), 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, BC); 635, OakwdBtms, 1 Jan (KJM, VL); 400, La Salle Co, 19 Jan (MBC); 100, Carl.L, 2 Feb (DK); 36, Carroll Co, 18 Dec (EA, DW). Wintered in much greater numbers, especially in the south.

[GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE

HL, 21 Dec.]

Brown-headed Cowbird

MC: 4200, Rend L, 14 Dec (KAM, CL); 4000, Utica (La Salle Co), 16 Feb (DJS); 565, Barstow (Rock Island Co), 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, BC); 330, Massac Co, 31 Dec (RSR, VL); 200, Cuba (Fulton Co), 8 Jan (LLH); 150, Vmln Co, all winter (JOS, ES). **Others:** 440, Seneca (La Salle Co), 18 Jan (EW, KW); 260, LCal., 3 Jan (DFS); 225, O'Fallon (St. Clair Co), 17 Feb (KAM); 102, Alexander Co, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 102, Rock Island Co, 22 Dec (KJM, SF); 50, Grundy Co, 1 Jan (DFS); 30, Ogle Co, 21 Dec (EW, KW, TB); 25, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 20, Knox Co, 13 Dec (DJM); 15, Will Co, 29 Dec (KJM); 12, Carroll Co, 18 Dec (EA, DW). This species occurred in greater abundance.

Purple Finch

MC: 6, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (CH); 4, New Columbia (Massac Co), 18-19 Jan (FB); 3, Coles Co, all winter (RB); 2, Severson Dells FP (Winnebago Co), 6 & 20 Feb (DTW). **Others:** female, Rend L, 14 Dec (DK); Loud Thunder FP (Rock Island Co), 26 Dec (KJM); MidFkVmln, 4 Jan (KJM, MW); female, Lake Co, 9 Feb (PS). Considerably less common throughout the state.

House Finch

MC: 120, Rkfd, 7 Dec (DFS); 56, Boone Co, 9 Jan (AEB); 45, Vmln Co, all winter (JOS, ES); 34, Vmln Co, 4 Jan (KJM, MW); 9, Carl.L, 29 Dec (DK). **Others:** 24, Barrington Hills (Cook Co), 16 Dec (AA); 19, Wilmette (Cook Co), 28 Dec (EW, WS, m.ob.); 18, Busse Woods FP (Cook Co), 8 Jan (AA). Fairly typical numbers.

American Goldfinch

MC: 91, Mason Co, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM); 91, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 82, Rock Island & Whiteside Cos, 23 Dec (KJM, RN, AM); 78, Alexander Co, 19 Dec (VK, KJM); 75, Lenzburg (St. Clair Co), 26 Feb (TUM); 73, Whiteside & Lee Cos, 5 Jan (CK, m.ob.). **Others:** 58, Rock Island Co, 26 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 49, UCCA, 20 Dec (VK, KJM, JF); 48, Vmln Co, all winter (JOS, ES); 45, Marion Co, 28 Dec (RSR, m.ob.); 42, Pomona (Jackson Co), 16 Feb (RSR); 30, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (TE, AB); 25, Carl.L, 17 Dec (DK); 23, Massac Co, 31 Dec (KJM).

House Sparrow

MC: 960, Kankakee Co, 4 Jan (DFS); 775, Rock Island Co, 26 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 445, Carl.L, 17 Dec (RSR, m.ob.); 365, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (BB, m.ob.); 175, Marion Co, 28 Dec (RSR, m.ob.). **Others:** 425, Whiteside & Lee Cos, 5 Jan (J&SB, m.ob.); 314, Wilmette (Cook Co), 28 Dec (EW, WS); 265, Will Co, 29 Dec (KJM); 253, Whiteside & Carroll Cos, 18 Dec (KJM, EA, DW); 198, Vmln Co, 4 Jan (KJM, MW); 152, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (KJ, NC); 150, Vmln Co, all winter (JOS, ES).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow

MC: 128, Tazewell Co, 5 Feb (JC); 127, Mercer Co, 27 Dec (TM, m.ob.); 30, Rock Island Co, 22 Dec (KJM, SF). **Others:** 79, Chau, 21 Dec (KJM, A&DM); 51, McDonough & Fulton Cos, 14 Dec (LLH); HL, 19 & 29 Jan (FH, KAM). This species was somewhat more numerous, particularly in the central region.

EXOTIC / RELEASED SPECIES

Trumpeter Swan

MC: 19, Madison Co, 26 Jan (FH). **Others:** 2, Rock Island Co, 26 Dec (KJM, JDS); 2 (ad. female, imm.), Bloomington (McLean Co), 5 Jan-28 Feb (BCk, MR); Chau, "red neck collar", 12 Dec & 16 Jan (R&SBj); Barstow (Rock Island Co), 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, BC); 1 ("neck band number P-12"), Rkfd, 15 Dec-12 Jan (DTW); ad. male ("band number 0619-29101"), Wolf L, LCal., 2-16 Feb (WM, AS, CM).

Ringed Turtle-Dove

MC: 36, Woodridge (Du Page Co), 15 Dec (UG). **Others:** Bolingbrook (Will Co), 15 Dec (UG). Reported only in northeastern Illinois.

Kelly J. McKay
Naibi Zoo Conservation
Science Center
12908 Niabi Zoo Road,
Coal Valley, IL 61240

Trumpeter Swan, Wolf Lake Conservation Area, 8 February 2003. Photo by Eric Walters.

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Juvenile Harris's Sparrow near Starved Rock State Park, LaSalle County, 23 February 2003.
Photos by Mary Kay Rubey.